

The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

1 November 2017

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

These items are reprinted from the National Advancement Newsletters of Sept-Oct, & Nov-Dec. 2017



A. EAGLE ISSUES:

1. The way Scouts earn Eagle Palms has changed-AGAIN:

Revised Eagle Palm Requirements: Effective August 1

After additional consideration the BSA has announced changes to the Eagle Palm requirements that were effective August 1, 2017. The revised requirements read as follows:

"Effective August. 1, 2017 (Revised October 2017).

After successfully completing your Eagle Scout board of review on or after August 1, 2017 and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional five merit badges you have completed before your Eagle Scout board of review beyond those required for Eagle. In addition, all current Scouts who completed their Eagle board of review and who had not passed their 18th birthday before August 1, 2017 are entitled as well. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for you to complete the requirements stated below.

After becoming an Eagle Scout and receiving the Eagle Palms you were entitled to, 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 Eagle 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 Scout or your last Eagle 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 Eagle Palm.

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

What has changed since August 1?

The requirement has been modified to allow current Scouts who earned the Eagle Scout rank and had not yet turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017 to immediately apply for Eagle Palms as well. Only the additional merit badges earned before the Scout's Eagle board of review may be considered for this option, if they have not already been applied to a previously awarded Palm.

Answers to your questions about the changes:

Following are some questions and answers regarding this revision to the August 1, 2017 requirements. These were provided by the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

Q: Can an Eagle Scout who successfully completed his board of review before August 1, 2017 but passed his 18th birthday on or after August 1, 2017 apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: Yes. Any Eagle Scout who completed his board of review before August 1, 2017 but had not passed his 18th birthday before August 1, 2017 is eligible to receive Palms under the revised requirements.

Q: If a Scout earned Eagle rank before August 1, 2017, and then turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017, can he apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: No. Any Eagle Scout who turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017 is not eligible to receive Eagle Palms under the new provision.

Q: Can merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review, but before August 1 be applied toward receiving Palms immediately?

A: No. Only merit badges earned before a Scout's Eagle board of review can be used in applying for Eagle Palms under the new provision. Any merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review can only be used to earn Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.

Q: How many additional Palms would a Scout be entitled to under the new provision if he earned Eagle rank at the age of 16 on February 1, 2016, and he had completed 50 additional merit badges at the time of his board of review?

A: Assuming he had remained continuously active and earned Palms in the normal manner under the previous requirements, he would be eligible to immediately receive four more Palms. That is based on counting 30 merit badges toward six Palms during the 18 months from February 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

Q: Using the previous example, if a Scout had earned an additional 20 merit badges after his Eagle board of review, how many Palms would he be eligible to receive on August 1, 2017?

A: He would still only be eligible to receive four more Palms. The 20 additional merit badges he earned could be applied toward additional Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.

2. Eagle Projects: Jumping the Gun - It Happens

Eagle Scout requirement 5 states in part: "A project proposal must be approved...before you start." The intent of this statement is to ensure that the proposed project meets five simple tests:

1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement.
2. The project appears to be feasible.
3. Safety issues will be addressed.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.
5. The young man is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

Requiring advance approval benefits the Scout, the unit, the beneficiary, and the district and council by ensuring that the proposed project is practical, that everyone involved is aware of what it entails, and that it meets the intent of requirement 5. Prior reviews and approvals provide the Scout with an opportunity for a thorough discussion of the project and the identification of potential problem areas and concerns where additional planning and development may be needed for the Scout to have a positive experience.

Occasionally, a Scout will "jump the gun" and do some aspects of his project, e.g., fundraising or obtaining materials, before receiving all required approvals. In extreme cases, the Scout may actually complete their project without having obtained all required approvals. Perhaps this was due to a lack of understanding and guidance, or the excitement of moving forward on his project. Regardless the reason, this is counter to the requirements and well covered in the *Guide to Advancement* and the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*.

What should be done in such cases? Normally, the Scout should start over by selecting a different project and then follow the procedures for obtaining the required approvals in advance of doing any work on the new project. However, if circumstances are compelling, the proposal or project can be approved after the fact if (1) it appears that the project was well led, (2) completed to the beneficiary's satisfaction, and (3) would probably have been approved in advance if the Scout had followed proper procedures.

When considering which of these options is appropriate in a specific case, everyone involved in the decision should keep in mind that write-ups and signatures, though important, are simply supportive. It is the project that we require. Ultimately, it is up to the Scout's board of review to determine if the project itself met the requirement. Boards of review should use common sense when reviewing the following: Did the project meet the requirements or not? Was there planning and development? Was there leadership of others?

3. Eagle Issues: Time Aspects in Completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application

"Section 9 of the *Guide to Advancement* [2013] describes the steps needed to complete and submit an Eagle Scout Rank Application. In topic 9.0.1.1, it says: "Confirm all requirements have been completed before the 18th birthday." Then, later, in topic 9.0.1.4, it says to "Obtain Required Signatures" (referring to those of the unit leader and committee chair). Many interpret that these signatures must be obtained prior to the Scout's 18th birthday. *This is incorrect.*

"The requirements that must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday are requirements 1 through 6, which cover merit badges, service project, active participation, Scout spirit, position of responsibility, and unit leader conference. Nothing else needs to be completed prior to the 18th birthday, including the signatures of the Scout, unit leader, and committee chair. Specifically, the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.1.4, states: "There is no requirement that [these] signatures ... must be dated before the Scout's 18th birthday." In fact, there is no BSA stipulation that the application itself must be submitted before his 18th birthday. Therefore, the same date-related "non-requirement" applies to the written responses from the Scout's references (requirement 2). If any of these is received after his 18th birthday, there is no penalty to the Scout.

“Requirement 7, the board of review, may also be fulfilled after the 18th birthday. And now, as of January 1, 2014, (see 2014 edition, *Boy Scout Requirements*) the statement of ambitions and life purpose that Scouts attach to the application is part of requirement 7 and, thus, may be completed after the 18th birthday.

“Certainly, everyone involved in advancement realizes that the chronology of a Scout’s path to the rank of Eagle Scout must occur in the right sequence. Thus, it is important to recognize that the order of some dates—especially those around the 18th birthday—are critical, and that others are not. With more than half of all Eagle Scouts completing their requirements during the three months before turning 18, it is incumbent upon us, who serve to support their efforts, to remember that no one is permitted to add extra requirements for any rank advancement, including that of Eagle Scout.”

4. Source for Eagle Projects:

- a. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services is looking to collaborate and help the advancement of Boy Scouts to achieve Eagle Scout by offering opportunities to fulfill Eagle Scout projects with Fishing and Boating Services.


This unique opportunity is two-fold; Scouts would successfully fulfill their leadership and community service project requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout as well as developing, implementing and overseeing projects and programs that could potentially have long lasting effects on for Maryland residents and visitors.

In addition, we would also like to create an opportunity for all scouts to participate with department programs to fulfill any community service related hours or projects needed for rank advancement and leadership.

Furthermore, teaming up with the Boy Scouts of America on several projects could provide a strong and beneficial relationship with the department as well as the community in whole.

Project Ideas:

- Artificial reef ball construction (wooden and concrete)
- Removal of invasive aquatic species on waterways
- Planting and growing of native aquatic grasses in designated areas
- Crab pot recycling program
- Fishing line recycling program
- BSA grows oysters
- Permanent signage for fishing areas
- Creation of fishing rod lending program
- Creation and implementation of youth involved fishing tournaments
- Development of fish id program to be implemented at free fishing areas
- Help distribute factual fishing information and basic fishing guidelines for youth

 <p>CHANGING Maryland for the Better</p> <p>dnr.maryland.gov</p>	<p>Eric G. Wilson Public Affairs Officer Fishing and Boating Services Department of Natural Resources 580 Taylor Ave., B-2 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-260-8307 (office) 443-569-1381 (mobile) ericg.wilson@maryland.gov</p>
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- b. **Leveling the Playing Field:** This is a non-profit organization that is getting established in Baltimore. They need help to get their facilities up and running. They have several possible Eagle service projects. Contact them at: www.levelingtheplayingfield.org
- c. Baltimore Area Council has received a large number of bicycle parts that could be used as part of a possible Eagle service project. Contact Cory Bolt at cbolt@baltimorebsa.org

5. Eagle Scout Scholarships:

Hampden Sydney College, in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia Has Citizen-Leader Scholarships available for Eagle Scouts. These scholarships are for \$5,000/year for up to 4 years, for a total of \$20,000. Every year up to 35 freshmen, 10% of the entering class are Eagle Scouts. For information contact: admissions@hsc.edu 800-755-0733, 434-223-6120, Fax: 434-223-6346. Also see: www.hsc.edu

B. Other Advancement Issues:

1. Requirement Updates: How to Handle Them

Advancement requirements across all BSA youth programs change from time to time. The 2017 *Guide to Advancement* provides information on how to deal with such changes in a couple of places: “Changes to Requirements” (Topic 4.0.0.1) and “What to Do” (Topic 7.0.4.3). Here is a brief rundown of the practical advice these topics provide. (As always, it is recommended that you review the topics themselves in the *Guide to Advancement*.)

For Cub Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts, revisions to rank or award requirements are introduced in new editions of their respective handbooks, and unless that handbook says differently, the pack, crew, or ship member has until the **next January 1** to decide which requirement—old or new—he or she prefers to use through completion of that rank or award.

For Boy Scout ranks, always check the most current annual edition of *Boy Scout Requirements* first. Once a new or revised requirement has appeared in that book, a Scout beginning his next rank or palm must meet the requirement stated therein. However, if a new or revised rank or palm requirement has been introduced by means of a new edition or reprinting of the *Boy Scout Handbook* after that “current” edition of the *Boy Scout Requirements* was published, the Scout will have until **December 31** to decide whether (1) he would like to begin or continue using the “old” requirement(s), or (2) use the new one(s) in the *Handbook*. If he chooses to stay with the old, he can continue to do so until he has completed the rank or palm he was working on, even if his progress extends beyond December 31.

For merit badges, here too the most current annual *Boy Scout Requirements* edition provides all current official requirements. However, as is the case with rank requirements, MB requirements may not always match the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the most recently published merit badge pamphlet, or even Merit Badges. Such mismatches can happen because *Boy Scout Requirements* is updated annually, whereas updating of the *Handbook*, pamphlets, and the website is an on-going process. Here are some tips for Scoutmasters, Advancement Coordinators, Merit Badge Counselors, and others on how to handle these situations:

- When a merit badge’s new or revised requirements are published in a new edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, a Scout beginning work on that merit badge must use the new, most current requirements.
- If new or revised requirements are published for a given merit badge in a revised pamphlet or online at Merit Badges during the same year—but after the current Boy Scout Requirements is published, then a Scout has until **December 31** of that year to choose which set of requirements he would prefer to use to start working on the MB: old or new. (Keep in mind that no one is authorized to “dictate” this to the Scout: It’s entirely his choice.) And, what if a Scout has already started on a MB when its requirements change? The answer again is that it is

the Scout's choice: He can choose to continue using the requirements he started with, or he can switch to the revised requirements.

Occasionally, the BSA National Council may need to stipulate different procedures or deadlines from those described here. If so, these changes will be broadly published and communicated. (See above concerning the changing of requirements concerning the earning of Eagle Palms.)

2. Parent Signatures: Every Requirement is There for a Reason:

Occasionally a troop may find itself facing a question about how to handle a Youth Protection parent/guardian sign-off requirement when Scout comes from single-parent family and troop seldom, if ever, sees the parent. However, the parent or legal guardian are the only ones who may agree to and sign off on this requirement and the Youth Membership Application.

Everyone agrees that Scouting will be good for the youth, but who can do what to make that happen? Is it the responsibility of the Scouters in the troop to talk with the parent or guardian, or is it solely that of the boy himself? To answer these questions, it is best to start by reviewing the situation, while always keeping in mind that we are not authorized to change any advancement requirements.

First, what is advancement? Advancement is a tool we use to fulfill our mission in Scouting. It is one of the methods we use to foster the personal growth and safety of our Scout. So why do we have **Scout requirement #6**. What are we trying to accomplish? The purpose is twofold: (1) to be sure the Scout's parent or guardian is aware of what we are trying to do to protect the Scout; and (2) to be sure the Scout is protected from online dangers.

Because in the situation described above, there is an adult in the troop—one who may even have become an Assistant Scoutmaster—who already is working with the Scout, the troop might be tempted to have him or her complete requirement #6 with the Scout. However, while this would ensure the Scout gains an appreciation of the principles of Youth Protection, this does not fulfill the real purposes stated above—making sure the parent or guardian appreciates what Scouting is doing to keep his or her boy safe, and understands that, in the case of online matters, “safety begins at home” with the parent or guardian. Therefore, the Scout's parent or guardian needs to be a cooperating participant in the BSA Youth Protection program. If the unit is not in contact with the parent or guardian of a new Scout or they are not coming to meetings, an alternative solution must be found to correct that situation.

A good place to start would be for the Scoutmaster to arrange a meeting with the parent or guardian, preferably in the home. This meeting should be as informal as possible, and should not be treated as something unusual because most units hold a new parents' orientation to get to know the parents or guardians. The unit is simply reaching out to every parent or guardian who could not attend that orientation for some reason. An invitation to meet could say something like, “We've asked for this meeting to get to know you and to let you get to know us. While we're here, we can help you and your son with Scout requirement #6.” This is a meeting that the Scoutmaster should not delegate.

It is important that the unit leadership establish a relationship with the parents or guardians of their Scouts before any problems develop. Hopefully, there will be none and the years that this young man will be involved with the troop will be positive ones for him and for his whole family. If we proceed in this way, we'll be sure to keep our Scout in Scouting longer, giving us a better chance to influence his character. Now isn't that what we're all about?

3. Revised Campout Requirements Became Effective August 1, 2017

Why the change?

With the January 2016 publication of the 13th Edition *Boy Scout Handbook* (BSHB) and the *Boy Scout Requirements* book, revised rank requirements were also introduced which doubled the number of overnight camping activities required to achieve the rank of First Class from three to six.

Does this change reflect a decreased focus on outdoors or on camping?

Definitely not. The new requirements maintain the increased focus on being outdoors, while recognizing that not all outdoor activities need to include overnight camping. Outdoor activities such as hikes, service projects, and geocaching, add to the adventure of being a first-year Scout. Further, the Camping merit badge requirements remain unchanged; therefore, the total number of camping nights required to attain the rank of Eagle Scout are unchanged.

When do the changes take effect?

The requirement changes took effect August 1, 2017.

Can I still use the old requirements?

Generally, yes. When there are requirement changes after the release of the *Boy Scout Requirements* publication or the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the Scout has until the following January 1 to decide what to do (please refer to the *Guide to Advancement topic 4.0.0.1*). However, in this case, any activities that would meet the old requirement also meets the new requirement.

What's the Change?

Rank	Previous Requirement	New Requirement
2nd Class	1a. Since joining, participate in five separate troop/patrol activities, three of which include overnight camping. These five activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On at least two of the three campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect (such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee).	1a. Since joining Boy Scouts, participate in five separate troop/patrol activities, at least three of which must be held outdoors. Of the outdoor activities, at least two must include overnight camping. These activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect, such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee.
1st Class	1a. Since joining, participate in 10 separate troop/patrol activities, six of which include overnight camping. These 10 activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On at least five of the six campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect (such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee).	1a. Since joining Boy Scouts, participate in 10 separate troop/patrol activities, at least six of which must be held outdoors. Of the outdoor activities, at least three must include overnight camping. These activities do not include troop or patrol meetings. On campouts, spend the night in a tent that you pitch or other structure that you help erect, such as a lean-to, snow cave, or tepee.

What about Star, Life and Eagle?

There aren't camping requirements for those ranks, because to become an Eagle Scout a young man must earn the Camping merit badge, which has its own camping requirements.

Requirement 9a for the Camping merit badge states:

Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.

All campouts since becoming a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout may count toward this requirement, including those used to fulfill the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.

4. Scoutmaster Conferences: What's the Requirement, and What Isn't?

All of us who have been involved in Scouting advancement for any time have been admonished more than once that we are not permitted to change the advancement requirements. We cannot add requirements, nor can we eliminate requirements. We cannot change requirements in small ways, or in major ones.

In some cases, recognizing the distinction is easy. For example, it is not okay to say, "In our troop, for a boy to earn the Eagle rank, he has to earn 31 merit badges." This is an obvious heavy-handed example, and we all understand that. It is the subtler changes that sometimes elude us. For example, if the requirement is to discuss how to do something, we cannot ask that the Scout write about it. If the requirement is to demonstrate a particular skill, it is not satisfactory to merely ask the Scout to tell how he would perform the task.

One area where even subtler changes may creep into a unit's advancement procedures over time is the unit leader conference. (*Guide To Advancement*, Topic 4.2.3.5) Commonly referred to as the Scoutmaster conference, this integral part of the advancement process is not a test that must be passed, thus it cannot be failed. Rather, it should be a conversation between the Scout and Scoutmaster in which the unit leader can learn more about the boy, his interests, his plans, and about how well the troop is doing to fulfill his needs in Scouting. It can be an informal venue for discussing topics such as ambitions, life purpose, and goals for future achievement, and, yes, even for some counseling. In some cases, the discussion might need to be about the requirements he has not completed—and especially why—as much as it is about what he has finished.

Some unit leaders will hold these discussions over several different occasions. Any one of these count as the Scoutmaster conference. It does not have to be the last event before a board of review. For example, unit leaders must not require the Eagle Scout Rank Application, statement of ambitions and life purpose, or list of positions, honors, and awards as a prerequisite to holding a unit leader conference for the Eagle Scout rank. To insist that he do so, would be to change the requirements.

Changing the approved requirements at the local level, even inadvertently, could discourage a Scout. Discouraging a Scout might drive him from Scouting, which would defeat our purpose. Avoid the temptation to change the advancement requirements by any degree, for whatever reason. Using advancement as it is designed will keep a boy in Scouting longer, giving us a greater opportunity to influence his character. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

5. "Partial" Blue Cards: The Clock Strikes Midnight at 18

A "partial" in the parlance of merit badges (*Guide To Advancement*, Topic 7.0.3.3) is when a Scout has started a merit badge and has completed some of the requirements, which have been signed off on his "blue card" (see *Dulaney Advancement Newsletter July 11, 2017; Item B.2.*), but has not completed all of the requirements. Partialials have no expiration date except a Scout's 18th birthday, so units, districts or councils cannot establish such expiration dates.

In the case of a partial, the merit badge counselor (MBC) does not retain his or her portion of the card. The counselor's portion of the blue card is removed and kept only by the MBC with whom the Scout ultimately completes the merit badge.

A Scout may complete a "partial" working with the original MBC, if available, or with another MBC. For example, partials may be acquired at summer camp, a Jamboree, a local merit badge festival, or some other activity where a registered MBC for the merit badge in question can sign off completed requirements. In such cases, it will be up to the Scout to pursue completion of the badge requirements at the troop level or elsewhere at a later date. Conversely, a Scout with a signed partial obtained prior to going to summer camp should take it to the MBC at camp to prove that a prerequisite outside of the camp's program (e.g., attending a town council meeting) has been met.

When counseling a Scout who presents a partial merit badge blue card, it is allowable to review what the Scout has previously completed, remembering that evidence of a Scout's having passed various requirements should be noted by the counselor's initials on the center section of the reverse side of the blue card trifold. However, this review should not be looked upon as a "retest." While a subsequent MBC may choose not to accept partial work, this should be rare.

If a Scout believes at any time that he is being treated unfairly with regards to his completed partials, he may work with his unit leader to find another counselor.

6. Merit Badge Counselor List updates:

By now all Dulaney troops should have received a list of their current merit badge counselors from our Merit Badge Dean: Don Walters. These lists need to be reviewed, updated, and returned to Don By the end of November. If your troop list has counselors indicated that have dropped out of Scouting, passed away, or for other reasons are no longer merit badge counselors, please delete them from your lists. In similar fashion, if current counselors no longer want to offer certain merit badges, please indicate that in your update.

C. New Whitewater Rafting Award;



Many Scouting units participate in rafting trips conducted by outfitters or councils. A new aquatics award, *Whitewater Rafting BSA*, recognizes the challenge and adventure of such activities.

The award is available to BSA youth and adults who are members of Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing, or Sea Scout units.

Requirements for the award focus on safety and basic paddling skills on whitewater up to Class III. All instruction and skill completions are directly supervised by a professionally trained or licensed rafting guide. A qualified raft captain must be in each raft during the required trip. Participants help power and control the raft with paddles – simply riding in a raft rowed by a guide is not sufficient.

The new award was featured at the 2017 National Jamboree. An application with requirements and notes to the counselor can be found on the aquatics page of [scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics.aspx>

Patches and pocket cards are in production and will be available at scoutstuff.org and in local Scout Shops later this season. A support brochure is also planned.

D. Special Necessities:

Communication and Creativity are the Keys to Helping Scouts with Special Needs Advance Along the Trail to Eagle

The advancement program is meant to be challenging for every Scout, and, those challenges can become even larger for Scouts with Special Needs. Since the *Guide to Advancement* clearly states in Section 10.2.2.0 that all requirements must be met, communication among the Scout, his parents, unit leaders, and even educators can lead to some real success stories.

Here are some tips to support Scouts:

- Work together as a team to develop a year-round advancement plan just like schools do with an IEP. Everyone works better when they have a plan to follow!
- Review rank requirements to determine the ones that can easily be met and those which will be more challenging.
- Use all of the resources available to assist a Scout complete the tougher and more challenging requirements. Often this will require thinking outside of the box.
- Allow other Scouts in the unit to help with this process too, as this can provide them with a unique learning opportunity.
- Recognize that there will be some requirements that won't be able to be completed by every Scout, so when you reach this point, be sure to apply for alternative rank requirement(s) (GTA Section 10.2.2.1) or alternative Eagle Scout rank required merit badge(s) (GTA Section 10.2.2.3).
- Don't wait until a Scout with Special Needs turns 17 to register him to continue advancing "beyond the age of eligibility." This option is explained in Section 10 of the *Guide to Advancement* and will take pressure off of the Scout, his unit, district and council if you do this earlier on.
- Lastly, seek help from other unit leaders who have had success in this area. There are great examples of a Scout who uses a wheelchair leading a hike, a Scout who uses a computer as a communication device making a "speech" or leading a meeting, or a Scout with visual impairments seeing the stars and constellations through cut out paper plates.

Recognize that these are opportunities and not roadblocks and feel confident knowing that a solution can often be found when everyone works together as a team.

E. Other:

"Plan on a Page" Worksheet: Just What Every Scout Needs

The BSA has released the "Scout Planning Worksheet", or "Plan on a Page" (No. 512-505), as a tool for Scouts to use in planning patrol or troop activities. It is available in a fillable PDF format at http://troopleader.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/512-505_16_Wksht_WEB.pdf

The underlying purpose of the worksheet is to give a boy familiarity with the planning process throughout his Scouting experience. If used properly, planning projects—small or big—will become second nature to the Scout by the time he reaches Life Scout. Scouts with project-planning experience will eventually benefit them on their Eagle project, at school, and in life.

The “Plan on a Page” worksheet can be used by Scouts to plan everything from a day hike to a trip, or even a new Scout orientation event. As a boy uses the worksheet to plan a patrol activity, he learns project-planning skills that will flow up from the patrol to the troop level. Eventually, as a patrol leader and member of the PLC, he will be able to use the Scout Planning Worksheet to plan troop activities—and eventually, to plan his own Eagle Scout project. The benefits reach beyond Scouting. The skills he learns along his trail to Eagle Scout will apply to school assignments, family events, and someday, even his career.

SCOUT PLANNING WORKSHEET
 “Plan on a Page”
If needed, use attachments for additional information.

GOAL
 Describe what you intend to accomplish, the objectives.

WHY?
 Describe the purpose or need for this activity—why it is important.

WHO?

Team leader _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

Team members _____

Name _____	Telephone _____	Email _____
Name _____	Telephone _____	Email _____
Name _____	Telephone _____	Email _____

WHEN?
 Consider creating a work-back schedule based on the completion date.
 Anticipated start date _____ Projected completion date _____

WHERE?

Location _____
 Permissions/permits required _____
 Transportation/parking needs _____
 Miscellaneous _____

Yours in Scouting;

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