



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL
NATIONAL PIKE DISTRICT

Advancement Update

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National Pike Advancement Chair

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Some Advancement Requirements

- Be **active*** in your troop **for at least xx months as a xx Scout.**
- While a xx Scout, **serve actively*** in your troop **for 6 months in one or more positions of responsibility.**
- While a xx Scout, after doing the above, **participate in a Scoutmaster conference**
- Successfully complete your **Board of Review** for the xx rank



Active Has New Definitions with COVID-19

- **Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?**
- Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in [GTA Topic 4.2.3.1](#).

- **Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?**
- Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See [GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,”](#) with its six subtopics.



Virtual Merit Badge Sessions

- These can be done
- Again, must have two adults in the session to satisfy YPT guidelines
- Up to the individual counselors as to how they will hold the session, what they will cover, etc.



Virtual Scoutmaster Conferences

- Frowned upon normally, but new COVID-19 guidance clarifies that this practice is OK as long as Youth Protection rules are followed
- Requires two adults in the on-line session
 - Scoutmaster and/or Asst Scoutmaster, and/or another adult leader
 - Not the parent



Virtual Boards of Review (BORs)

- We can do these!!!
- Using Zoom or some other virtual meeting application...
 - Board members join the virtual meeting
 - Board members read Eagle reference letters (Eagle BOR only)
 - Scout joins the virtual meeting
 - BOR and discussions take place
 - Scout is removed from the virtual meeting
 - Board deliberates
 - Scout is brought back in and told the result of the BOR



Eagle Scout Verified Applications Postcards

- Normally after a Scout has submitted his Eagle application, he receives a post card...

- There was an error while processing your application. Please call at your earliest convenience. The Scout Office is open M-F.
- Your verified Eagle Application has been forwarded to your District Advancement Chairman. Please contact your Unit leadership to make them aware. They will work with the District to schedule your Board of Review once all of the documentation has been received. Contact your Unit leadership if you have any questions regarding the next step in the process.



Eagle Scout Verified Applications Postcards

- Currently, these are NOT being mailed out by Council
- The Advancement Chair does receives the verified application electronically
- I will share with all the ones I receive when I receive them so folks can start planning an Eagle BOR
 - Assumes the troop has received the Eagle reference letters



COVID 19 Age Extensions (1 of 2)

Through September 30, 2020, the Baltimore Area Council may grant extensions with the following limitations:

- COVID-19 disruptions were the **only** circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges.
 - If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the Guide to Advancement.
- **Extensions** shall **only** be **granted to** youth in **Scouts** BSA **who have already achieved Life rank**.
- **Council reviews** the request **and approves** it **if appropriate**.



COVID 19 Age Extensions (2 of 2)

- A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth.
- If approved, an extension notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application.
- For **Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18th birthday**
- For **Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21st birthday.**
- **Upon turning 18**, the Scout must **submit a completed adult application and successfully complete YPT** – Their participant code will now be Unit Participant (UP) for Scouts BSA, or Venturing Participant (VP) for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
- Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth's 18th/21st birthday must be sent to the National Service Center.



Life to Eagle Seminar

- Is tomorrow night, April 14 starting at 7:30 PM on-line
- Invitation went out yesterday
- Copy of slide show went out yesterday
- If you did not get it, send me an email at
duncan_brown@comcast.net



A Note on Requirements

Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

- No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.
- There are limited exceptions relating only to members with special needs.

Questions

