



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

22 July 2015

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

The following are excerpts from the March-April and May-June editions of the National Advancement News:



A. Eagle Requirements: Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook—2015 Version Now Online:

The 2015 version of the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook is now online. There are no changes to the overall function or how the workbook is used. However, some wording has been revised to improve consistency and clarify expectations. In addition, modified data input fields allow additional text.

Any Scout who **has not yet begun the service project process** must use the new workbook, but a Scout currently using the 2014 workbook has a choice:

- He may continue to use the 2014 version until the project is finished—even if the project proposal is not yet approved. He is not required to transfer information to the new version.
- Alternatively, he may choose to use parts of the 2015 version. For example, a Scout who has prepared his proposal using the 2014 workbook may elect to use the 2015 plan and report sections.

Changes and clarifications to the 2015 version include:

- “Final plan” becomes “project plan.” This change is consistent with the terms “project proposal” and “project report” and eliminates any inference that an interim plan may have been required.
- “Completing” a plan, report, or form changes to “preparing” or similar wording. The Scout needs only to prepare what he and the project beneficiary decide is necessary to execute the project. While the use of the workbook is required, not every line or even every form must be completed. See *2015 Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.2.8, for additional information.
- Fundraising Application, Page B. **This form is required not just for monetary donations, but also for donations of material, tools, supplies, and other needs.** In addition, the fundraising application is not required as part of the project proposal, since the Scout may not develop his funding plans until after the proposal is approved.



B. Positions of Responsibility:

A recent post on Scouting magazine's blog: *Bryan on Scouting* (blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/01/27/honor-guard-patch), highlighted the new Honor Guard patch available for Boy Scouts. It was noted the new patch is to be worn on the right sleeve, not the left, because it, like the Musician patch, is not a "position patch." After clarifying that "serving in the Honor Guard doesn't count as a position of responsibility needed for advancement," it was then asked: "What does count?"

The answer was provided later in the article where it explains that for Boy Scout troops, **the position of responsibility patches that may count toward rank** and go on the left sleeve are "**patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, Venture patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, troop webmaster, or Leave No Trace trainer.**" Note, however, that only those positions specified in the most recent edition of the Boy Scout Requirements book may count toward a Scout's Star, Life, and Eagle position of responsibility requirements.

Advancement is one of the eight Scouting methods used to help a youth develop and grow, and positions of responsibility are part of that process. Unit leaders should strive to align a Scout's strengths and skills with a position of responsibility that enables him to grow while serving the needs of his troop. A Scout's developmental needs will more likely be successful when he receives guidance, support, and coaching from his unit leaders in fulfilling these requirements (*2015 Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.3.4.4).

For example, a 17-year old Eagle Scout candidate that is very active in sports, school, community, and church, may not need to be selected as the troop's senior patrol leader to develop his leadership skills. On the other hand, a 12-year old Scout may have very different needs and exhibit significant growth and responsible behavior by serving in a position everyone counts on such as troop librarian.

Furthermore, unit leaders do not have the authority to require Scouts to hold specific position of responsibility to advance to a particular rank. For example, a Scout cannot be required to serve as senior patrol leader to obtain the Eagle Scout rank (*2015 GTA*, 4.2.3.4.1). The senior patrol leader position is actually elected by all members of the troop, and each troop can determine its own schedule of elections for this position.

A Scout could hold a number of different positions to fulfill the position of responsibility requirement, as long as the total time adds up to the time required. Depending on the Scout's personal journey, these positions may not necessarily be consecutive (*2015 GTA*, 4.2.3.4.2).

Speaking of reviews, remember that advancement is a tool used to help a boy grow, and thoughtfully assigned positions of responsibility can and will help the Scout to develop into the man we hope he will become. Now isn't that what we're all about?

C. Merit Badges:

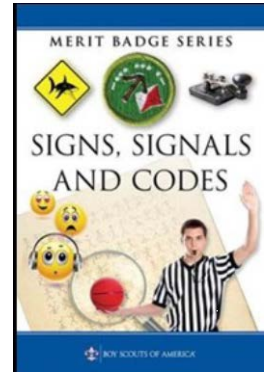
1. Signs, Signals, and Codes: Communication for Everyone:

Are you ready for the next merit badge? Requirements for Signs, Signals and Codes are now posted at scouting.org/meritbadges. Boys will discover this to be an exciting merit badge with lots of hands-on, interactive activities for learning and practicing different types of communications



such as Morse code, semaphore, and American Sign Language. The badge also encourages boys to check out cryptography, trail markers, and Braille. There are a variety of different signs, signals, and codes to have fun exploring.

Signs, Signals, and Codes would be an ideal badge to introduce at summer camp and camporees. Competitions between patrols or troops would be greatly enhanced as Scouts challenge each other to send various messages back and forth to accomplish requirements. In addition, they can mark trails and send and receive silent Scout signals. There is definitely something here for everyone.



Signs, Signals, and Codes marks the 135th current merit badge. A promotional flyer can be downloaded at www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-942.pdf. Look for the new pamphlet at your local Scout store or order online from scoutstuff.org.

2. Animation Merit Badge Scheduled Arrived in May:

This exciting merit badge provides an introduction to the art of animation. Five general areas will be explored:

1. General knowledge
2. Principles of animation
3. Projects
4. Animation in our world
5. Careers



A very important part of this merit badge will be found within the new interactive digital merit badge pamphlet. This format for merit badges will provide interactive ways for boys to explore in detail and see illustrations of the topics being covered and add excitement to their merit badge experience.

To get a sample of this, visit www.boyslife.org/merit-badges/animation-merit-badge/. A few illustrated samples are available to review.

Will there be more interactive merit badges you ask? Well, YES! A few select Eagle merit badges have been available since the end of May, with many more to follow. They will be available online for even more convenience. There's more good news—they will be searchable. When you want to find a specific content, you'll be able to quickly find that topic in the book. Plus, boys will be able to access that merit badge on any of their devices—PC, tablet, or phone.

Boys will enjoy the interaction, and all merit badge counselors will be able to use the digital merit badge content to demonstrate a particular topic in a totally consistent way. Watch for this new merit badge delivery method now and in the future.

D. Scoutbook to Enhance Advancement Reporting:

The Boy Scouts of America recently announced the acquisition of Scoutbook, a web-based application that helps manage the overall Scouting experience, including communication, activities—and advancement!

Scouts, parents, and unit leaders are able to record, track, and manage individual advancement. Check out www.scoutbook.com for current features, available in both a mobile platform and via the Web.

The best is yet to come, however. Over the next several months, the National Council will be working with the developer to integrate Scoutbook with BSA's membership system. Information about this transition of Scoutbook to BSA will be communicated through Scouting Wire, BSA's official news site. Watch www.scoutingwire.org for updates and information on how Scoutbook will enhance the way you track your Scouts' advancement progress.

Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.scoutingwire.org/scouting-goes-mobile-with-scoutbook.

E. The Boy Scout Advancement Trail—Looking Ahead to January 1:

Unlike recent revisions to the Cub Scout and Venturing programs, the Boy Scout rank requirements, to be released at the National Annual Meeting in May, will see only minor modifications. The revised requirements are based on the work of the 411 Task Force, a team of more than 75 volunteers from around the country who worked with a variety of BSA committees and professionals to ensure that the Boy Scout advancement program is “appealing, exciting, and culturally relevant.”



Previous announcements have revealed some enhancements to requirements, such as service at each rank; development of physical fitness as a life-long habit; safety awareness; and greater emphasis on outdoor ethics. In addition, some requirements will be rearranged to more effectively organize content and to provide a more logical progression. While advancing through the early ranks, boys will experience key Scouting methods such as the outdoors, the patrol method, and leadership development.

This emphasis in these areas will begin on day one of a boy's Scouting experience:

- **“Scout”** will be elevated from a joining badge to a rank, with new requirements focusing on troop and patrol operations and the skills needed for camping. *The new Scout rank will not require a board of review.*
- To ensure there is more outing in Scouting, by the time he is ready for his First Class board of review, a boy will have completed six troop or patrol campouts—twice the number now needed.
- A Scout's duty to God will be more prominent in the “Scout Spirit” requirement of each rank. In addition to the requirement to “demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law,” a Scout will be asked to “tell how you have done your duty to God.” It is important to note, however, that the added requirement does not involve a review, evaluation, or discussion—simply a statement by the youth of how he has fulfilled his duty to God, as defined by his family.
- A new Boy Scout Handbook is scheduled to be published in January 2016. Although it will be revised to align with the new requirements, most of its content remains consistent with the current handbook.

For details about how these changes will affect current Scouts when the requirements go into effect on January 1, 2016, visit www.scouting.org/programupdates and click on “Notes on Transitioning to the New Requirements in 2016.” Upon release, new requirements will be posted on this same site.

F. **Special Necessities: Disabilities Awareness—Lessons from Florida Sea Base CEAA:**

The Disabilities Awareness breakout session at the Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA) conducted at the Florida Sea Base in January 2015 sparked a number of questions that many council advancement committees face. The most often asked questions centered on registering an individual “beyond the age of eligibility”—specifically when and how this happens.

The answer to the question of “when” to register a youth beyond the age of eligibility is to do so early, or as soon as the Scout’s qualification is obvious. Do not wait until the Scout is 17½. Once the disability designation is approved, the Scout does not have to use it, nor does he or the unit leader need to tell anyone else about it—until it might be needed.

Concerning the question of “how,” the National Disabilities Awareness Committee has approved two new forms that will assist councils in addressing that key question:

- Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility (No. 512-935) outlines the details needed and the process that the council must follow.
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP) (No. 512-936) describes specific details regarding the Scout’s capabilities and proposed alternative requirements.

The Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility form is really two forms in one. The front page is the outline for a transmittal letter to be used by the parents and unit leader to initiate the request and provide the six pieces of information required by the *2015 Guide to Advancement*, topic 10.1.0.2. The back page becomes the council’s response, recording the decision and verifying that the decision was communicated to the family and unit. Additionally, *2015 GTA* Topic 10.1.0.2 is included to ensure that the process is clearly in front of the council decision makers.

A key point discussed at the breakout session is that the decision to register a Scout beyond the age of eligibility is the responsibility of the council executive board, but the approving authority can be delegated to an operating council committee such as the council advancement committee (BAC’s procedure). However, the decision must be deliberated by a body and cannot be the decision of any one person, either volunteer or professional. Consequently, it is very important to involve a representative of the council disabilities awareness committee in the deliberation process to provide situational awareness to whichever body makes the decision. ***You also need to submit the forms through the District Advancement Committee who will forward them to the Council Advancement Committee.***

The ISAP (No. 512-936) is a “follow on” form to be used after the Scout has been approved, either to register beyond the age of eligibility or to qualify as a Scout who has a significant long-term disability. The ISAP provides the Scout, his parents, and unit leader with a format for identifying requirements that need to be modified (Tenderfoot through First Class) or Eagle Scout rank merit badges for which alternatives are needed. Most importantly, the ISAP formalizes a process for describing alternatives and justifying their applicability.

Needless to say, many further discussions will result from the use of these two forms. Everyone involved in a particular case should be cautioned to look at that particular case as unique, and then apply the guidance from *2015 Guide To Advancement* topic 10.1.0.2—and, indeed, the spirit of the entire *Guide to Advancement*—based upon that Scout’s unique situation.

G. Personal:

I have scheduled to have my left knee replaced on Monday, October 5, 2015. As a result, I expect to be out of action for both Eagle Boards of Review and Eagle Courts of honor for at least the next 2-3 weeks; i.e.: the month of October. I will also be out of action with respect to Eagle project proposals for a few days after the surgery. I ask that all troops be aware of this schedule and try to work things around this time period.



Yours in Scouting;

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