

The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

7 February 2019

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

Most of these items are reprinted from the National Advancement Newsletters of Nov-Dec 2018 & Jan-Feb 2019



A. EAGLE ISSUES:

1. Life-to-Eagle Orientation:

The Spring Life-to-Eagle Orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 3 at Havenwood Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Ridgely Road, Lutherville at 7 PM. This is for all prospective Eagle Scouts and their parents and everyone who wants to be an Eagle Mentor or Coach (part 1 of 2-part training).

2. Eagle Mentor/Coach Training:

This course will be conducted on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM at Havenwood Presbyterian Church, and is Part 2 of the Eagle Mentor/Coach training. It is for adults only.

3. Eagle Scout Boards of Review: Not a Job Interview:

Occasionally we hear of Eagle Scout boards of review that have been turned into something they were never intended to be. For example, some have said that the board of review is like a job interview – nothing could be further from the truth. The Scout has already “earned the position” of Eagle Scout by completing the requirements. They are not interviewing for the position.

All too often, the “job interview” analogy is used to justify a number of additional requirements that aren’t appropriate. Expecting the Scout to appear in “business attire,” grilling them on their qualifications, asking inappropriate questions intended to cause stress and anxiety may all seem justified as making the Scout better prepared for experience in the “real world.” However, the Scout is already in the “real world” of Scouting. The board of review is not about preparing the Scout for something but rather about celebrating their accomplishments. While part of the board’s responsibility is to ensure that requirements have been met, it is not their responsibility to determine if those requirements met the board’s personal standards. Other youth leaders and adults who previously reviewed the Scout determined that the requirements were met when they signed off on the requirement, or merit badge, etc. It is not up to the board to decide that the standards used by those leaders were or were not sufficient.

By the time a Scout has reached the Eagle Scout board of review they have already demonstrated their knowledge and skills, many times over. This candidate is by all intents and purposes an Eagle Scout when arriving at the board of review. Only in the most egregious cases where it was clear that the Scout could not possibly have

properly completed a requirement would the board be warranted in determining that the Scout should not be advanced.

Therefore, make the Scout's Eagle board of review a celebration of their achievement. Make it something to be proud to share with others, not something to be feared. It is not a job interview; it is a celebration of a job well done.

4. Eagle Scout Proposal Approval – What Is Expected?

After a Life Scout chooses an idea for an Eagle Scout service project the next important step is to prepare a project proposal, and have it approved. Approvals are required from the unit leader, a unit committee representative, the project beneficiary, and a council or district representative. The criteria that individuals approving project proposals must consider for determining if the project is acceptable are specified in topic 9.0.2.7 of the [Guide to Advancement](#). Keep in mind that the proposal is an overview, but also the *beginning* of planning. It shows the approvers that the following five tests can be met.

1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement. To meet this test there must be opportunity for planning and developing the project, for giving leadership to others, and determining the project will be "helpful" to the beneficiary. Planning and development require forethought from the candidate to organize a successful project effort rather than just following directions prepared by someone else. The leadership component is met by organizing and directing others who help carry out the project. Finally, by having a project that is "helpful," we show that we intend for the project to have a positive impact for the beneficiary, although that does not mean that the project must have lasting value.

2. The project appears to be feasible. Is it a project the Scout is capable of planning and developing and also managing to a successful conclusion? Is it reasonable to believe that the Scout will be able to obtain the necessary resources (material, supplies, and people) to properly carry out the project? Note that the second test says, "**appears to be feasible.**"

3. Safety issues will be addressed. The Scout is aware of potential safety issues and hazards and will address them in the project plan. The safety issues do not need to be addressed or solved in the proposal. Assurance needs to be given that the Scout is aware of the issues and that those issues will be addressed in the project plan. Since an Eagle Scout project is a unit activity, unit adult leadership has the same responsibility to assure safety while conducting a project as with any other unit activity.

4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included. Does the proposal include some action steps for preparing the project plan? Those steps don't need to be very detailed, but they should provide a simple "road map" that the Scout can follow when developing the project plan. These action steps are critical to the final test.

5. The Scout is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience. Does the Scout's proposal demonstrate a good understanding of what is to be accomplished? Is it reasonable to believe that the proposed project has a good chance of providing the Scout a successful outcome that will contribute to personal growth and development? It *doesn't* have to guarantee success.

The detail required for a proposal depends on the project's complexity. Details provided must be enough to provide a level of confidence for a council or district reviewer that the above five tests can be met, but not so much detail that—based on the possibility that a proposal can be rejected—it does not respect the time it takes to prepare the proposal.

For further information and insight see [Guide to Advancement topics 9.0.2.3 - 9.0.2.5 and 9.0.2.14](#).

B. OTHER ADVANCEMENT ISSUES:

1. Scoutbook-More than Recording Advancement:

Scoutbook will be free starting January 1, 2019

In an effort to drive program consistency and deeper engagement with our youth and leaders, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2019, Scoutbook will be free to all BSA units.

Scoutbook (<https://www.scoutbook.com>) is an online unit management tool that ensures that you never miss a Scouting moment—from tracking advancements to milestone achievements along the Scouting adventure. When units with a current Scoutbook account need to “renew” this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018. When councils with Scoutbook accounts for their units need to “renew” their unit Scoutbook accounts this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018.

Essentially, all current Scoutbook unit accounts have recently been extended--so they will not expire--at no cost to the unit or council. For units currently without a Scoutbook account, they can begin their free Scoutbook unit account on January 1, 2019.

Here are some FAQs about this announcement:

Q. What is the new Scoutbook change?

A. Effective January 1, 2019, there will be no cost for any new Scoutbook accounts. Effective September 1, 2018, there will be no cost for any renewed Scoutbook accounts.

Q. I recently opened and paid for a Scoutbook account. Will I be reimbursed for any time that remains after January 1, 2019?

A. No. There are no plans to reimburse anyone who has previously paid for Scoutbook accounts. This new Scoutbook change only applies to any new Scoutbook accounts created January 1, 2019 or later—and to any renewing Scoutbook accounts that would “normally” be paid between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

Q. I recently opened a trial account to Scoutbook between August 1 and 31, 2018. So now that September is here, do I have to pay for my continued access to Scoutbook?

A. No. You started a trial Scoutbook account in August 2018 at no cost. There is no cost to renew Scoutbook on or after September 1, 2018. Your Scoutbook account has been automatically extended so that it will not expire.

Q: How does renewal of Council or Unit accounts expiring between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 occur? Does an expiring Council or Unit need to act?

A. No. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. If more unit codes are required, the Council must request them as needed.

Q: How does renewal of Council paid Scoutbook unit accounts that expire in 2019 occur? Is action required?

A. No. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. Unit Codes will no longer be issued—as they are no longer required--since all Scoutbook unit accounts will be free effective January 1, 2019.

Q. How will the family plan in Scoutbook work in the future?

A. The family plan is for families who want to share their Scout’s advancement records. The family plan is also for families with more than one Scout. Parents, grandparents, and leaders can all connect to the Scout(s) records. The Scout(s) in the family can also have access to their records with their own login account. The cost for this service was \$10/year for 2 to 5 Scouts or \$20/year for 6 to 10 Scouts. All current family plans in Scoutbook have been extended so they will not expire. On or after January 1, 2019, any new family plan for Scoutbook can be created at no cost.

Q. I need to add a few more Scouts to my family plan in Scoutbook. What is the charge?

A. There is no charge. All current family plans in Scoutbook have been increased to 10 Scouts.

Q. As it is the fall and school is beginning, it is now “new member signup” time for my Cub Scout pack. My pack has 75 youth in Scoutbook with 15 open slots remaining. We expect to recruit well over that number next Tuesday night. Will we be able to extend our Scout numbers by that time?

A. It sounds like you have a current Scoutbook account. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. These unit accounts have been increased to an unlimited number of Scouts.

Q. My unit had a trial that previously expired. Do I have to wait until January 1, 2019 to begin using Scoutbook again?

A. Yes. Scoutbook will be free to all units beginning January 1, 2019. Meantime, please watch key BSA marketing channels for the release of Scoutbook Lite for all units later in 2018. This free online tool will provide a different UX (user experience) and will help your unit track advancements for all youth members.

Q. What about the term “renewal” for Scoutbook?

A. With Scoutbook becoming free for all users beginning January 1, 2019 and free for any current users renewing on or after September 1, 2018, you may see the term “renewal” not be used at all. In the future, we expect to just have Scoutbook users actively engaged in this online platform. The need to “renew” has become unnecessary.

Q. In the future, what is the renewal process for Scoutbook?

A. Scoutbook will be free effective January 1, 2019. Units with a current account can renew or add more youth at no cost—effective September 1, 2018. If a unit in Scoutbook is in sync, we expect that the unit in the future will not need to “act” to renew, as there is no reason to end an account—due to a payment that is no longer needed. If your unit has a current Scoutbook account and is in Sync, you do not need to take any action. Your Scoutbook unit account will stay live on and after the current end date.

Q. How does this affect the development and roll-out of Scoutbook Lite?

A. This Scoutbook announcement does not affect Scoutbook Lite, which will be rolled out later in 2018 and feature a new UX (user experience). Scoutbook Lite in its initial rollout will feature only advancement reporting.

Q. Will Scoutbook performance be negatively affected?

A. No. The performance of Scoutbook is not affected by this change. The BSA IT and Member Care teams will continue to support Scoutbook with their timely service and quality resources. Scoutbook performance enhancements have been implemented and performance is continually monitored. The platform that Scoutbook is built upon is very adjustable. If adjustments are needed in the future, they will be brought to bear as needed.

Q. Are you not accepting any new Scoutbook accounts between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018?

A. That is correct. We have chosen to remove the “signup” button off the home page of Scoutbook. This will allow us to improve the Scoutbook online tool, which will come back as a free product effective January 1, 2019.

Q. So, I just started a new Cub Scout pack this fall. What are my options for tracking advancement in a digital way?

A. You have several options now. You can use the online free tool—Internet Advancement to track your advancement at the unit level. Parents and families can download and use the free online “Scouting” app (available in the App Store and Google Play) to track their child’s advancement—essentially a digital handbook. When Scoutbook Lite is released later this year, you can use that free online tool to track advancements at the unit level. When Scoutbook returns in the New Year, you can use that free online tool to track your advancements—and much more to include tracking campouts, hikes, service projects and more.

Q. I let my previous Scoutbook account expire. I now want to reactivate my expired paid Scoutbook account. What should I do?

A. Please contact BSA Member Care to get the help you need. They can be reached at 972-580-2489 or myscouting@scouting.org.

Q. My council paid in advance (before September 1, 2018) for all the units in our council to be able to use Scoutbook. I do not see where or how to add the unit code they gave me—so that my unit can get access to Scoutbook. What should I do?

A. We are working on that issue now. When that capability is available, we will provide updated instructions on the Scoutbook page and other BSA marketing channels—so that your local council and your unit will be supported with Scoutbook.

Q. I’m a parent of a youth member registered in a unit. So how does the “Scouting” app work? I thought you needed a Scoutbook account to activate this “Scouting” app.

A. For all families that are seeking a digital solution for their child’s advancement tracking, they can download and use the free online “Scouting” app (available in the App Store and Google Play). Once the app is downloaded, it will redirect you to a Scoutbook.com webpage where you will click on the “FREE Advancement Tracking” banner to create a login and password. Your unit does not need a Scoutbook account—for you to use this free family app to track your child’s advancements. Please note that you must have a parent or guardian connection to a BSA youth member to login to this “Scouting” app.



Q. I have heard about a SSO (Single Sign On) option that will be available in the future for Scoutbook. Can you tell me more?

A. We are working on the SSO now and will announce that update when this feature is available. We anticipate in the future that Scouters will be able to sign onto Scoutbook using their my.Scouting credentials. We expect that this change will make the online user experience easier, as there will only be one login and password to remember for my.Scouting and Scoutbook.

Q. What is the difference between Scoutbook, Scouting app, and Scoutbook Lite?

A. See the chart below for more details.

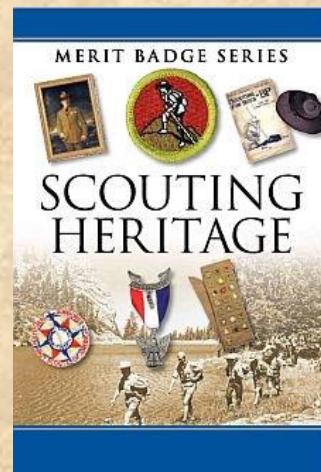
| | Scoutbook Unit Management Tool | Scouting App Individual Tracking | Scoutbook Lite IA Replacement |
|----------|---|---|--|
| Users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders • Parents • Scouts • MB Counselors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (connected to active Scout) • Scouts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders • Advancement Chair |
| Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roster • Advancement • Track hiking, camping, and service hours • Calendar • Forums • Blogs • Reports • Unit Communication • MBC Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profile • Advancement • Track hiking, camping, and service hours • Settings • Dashboard | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roster • Advancement • Advancement Import • Reports |
| Login | Scoutbook Credentials | Scoutbook Credentials | My Scouting Credentials |
| Type | Web Browser | Mobile App (offline capabilities) | Web Browser (Mobile, Desktop) |

Q. Where can I get more information about these changes in Scoutbook?

A. For more info, please contact Scoutbook.support@scouting.org

2. Scouting Heritage Merit Badge Update:

Scouting history reached a new milestone this past year as the National Scouting Museum opened at Philmont Scout Ranch. This grand opening has an effect on *one* of the requirements to earn this merit badge (Requirement 4b). This may now be accomplished by visiting the new museum at Philmont Scout Ranch in person. The alternate for requirement 4b, as before, is to write to the museum via e-mail or traditional mail to accomplish 4b. Note that there are two additional options to complete requirement #4 which may be to attend a BSA national jamboree or other similar event (4a), or to visit a local display of Scouting memorabilia (4c).



National Scouting Museum contact information:

e-mail: Philmont.Museums@scouting.org (include “Scouting Heritage Merit Badge” in the subject line)

US mail:

National Scouting Museum – Philmont Scout Ranch
Attention: Scouting Heritage Merit Badge
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

3. Webelos to Scout Transition Starts Now:

Until 1989, a large percentage of boys earning Arrow of Light failed to become Boy Scout. To reverse this, Scouting introduced the 18-month Webelos program, with graduations in February and immediate “bridging” or “crossovers” into troops. As a result, the retention rate flipped to 80% of February graduates becoming Boy Scouts, with most remaining with their patrols and troops to their 18th birthdays.

Per the *Den Leaders Guide*, “Every boy graduating from a Cub Scout pack deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience... The purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan is to give every boy a sampling of the troop program, leadership, advancement opportunities, and the excitement of Boy Scouting. A key factor in this transition is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos den and the troop... every Webelos den should be linked to a troop.” In addition, every parent needs to be oriented toward this transition:

| WEBELOS Den ⇨ | ARROW OF LIGHT Den ⇨ | Boy Scout PATROL |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 th Grade | 5 th Grade | 5 th Grade and Beyond |
| 1 st 12 Months | Next 6 Months | To June, Summer Camp, and Beyond |
| September-June | September-February | February and Beyond |

The *Webelos Handbook* reinforces this. For parents, it advises, “Your son sees Webelos Scouting as... a step on the way to outdoor adventures in Boy Scouting... Help him move toward the Boy Scouting adventures.”

The new Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements are designed specifically to prepare these boys for Boy Scouting and their first step in their troop: Scout rank.

Ideally, the entire Webelos den will move as one into a troop, where they will become a new-Scout patrol with the guidance of an experienced Scout (the troop guide) who will help them adjust to the new adventures Boy Scouting

offers. Their troop will likely also provide an assistant Scoutmaster, who will oversee (but not “lead” the way their den leader did) their further bonding and overall success. This can lead to life-long friendships because these new Scouts will likely remain an intact patrol for the next seven years.

The Webelos den leaders’ most important responsibility is to encourage their Webelos Scouts to move on to Boy Scouting. Correspondingly, parents can reinforce this by helping their sons select the troop they’d most like to join, and then guiding this transition.

C. FEMALES IN SCOUTING BSA:

1. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FEMALES ENTERING SCOUTS BSA Temporary Transition Rules:

Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18), nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, on February 1, 2019 who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019, may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age.
2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Extensions must be in writing by submitting the designated form to the National Service Center and the form must be received no later than January 7, 2020. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual’s registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019 – both girls and first-time joining boys.

Recognition:

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate’s award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops, or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting’s values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated. It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?

A. No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.

Q: Can troops, districts, or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?

A. No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.

Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?

A. No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the [Guide to Advancement](#), an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?

A. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the [Guide to Advancement](#), an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?

A. No.

Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?

A. No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.

Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?

A. No. The Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council; that date will be noted to recognize this inaugural class.

2. All-Girl Troops: Ask Yourself, Have We Done Everything to Be Prepared?

February 1, 2019 will be a red-letter day for the Boy Scouts of America as 11 to 17 year old girls will be joining Scouts BSA within an all-girl troop. They will be known as Scouts and will complete advancement and activities on the trail to their Eagle Scout rank

Prior to the launch in February, districts and councils will be organizing all-girl troops. The troop will need an official chartered organization and a designated troop committee. The chartered organization may serve both all-boy and all-girl troops with “linked troops,” which means that the troop committee may be a shared committee for each of the separate all-girl and all-boy troops.

Regardless of the charter organization and committee arrangements, here are some preparations that every new unit needs to make:

- Meeting Place – Secure an appropriate meeting place for the all-girl troop and verify its availability
- Recruiting – Plan and publicize one or more “joining events” at that meeting place and bring plenty of youth applications.
- “Calendaring” – Prepare a preliminary calendar or a few ideas of activities to share with the girls and their parents.
- Volunteers – Review the types of activities you will plan to include and offer opportunities for parent involvement in the leadership/support of those activities and bring plenty of adult applications.

Here are a few other considerations to ensure that your council’s and district’s units are ready:

- Training – Are your key committee members trained (Youth Protection and position specific training) – contact your district committee for information on upcoming opportunities. There will also be a special opportunity in January at the Florida Sea Base to prepare new leaders. Come join the fun!
<http://www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/seabase/pdf/2019/2019FSBConfFlyer.pdf>

- Leadership – Does the unit have registered, trained female leadership available for all activities for the all-girl troop? Check with the district to ensure that plans are in place for training opportunities and especially outdoor training.
- Advancement – The *Scouts BSA Handbook* will be the appropriate **youth** reference book, one for girls and one for boys, will be available early 2019. All advancement information will be identical in both publications.

The more we prepare in advance, the quicker everyone will be ready for the great experience the girls will have in their new all-girl troop.

Yours in Scouting;

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