



## *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News*

25 November 2020

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

There have been no National Advancement Newsletters issued since the Jan-Feb 2020 issue. With that being said, I need to keep all Scout leaders informed about the following upcoming advancement issues. Most of this information was received during the National Live Office Hours event on November 12, 2020:

### **A. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:**

1. In the late spring, National issued a statement that it would be making a new, Eagle required merit badge to cover issues of the day. This will be in the form of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI).
2. National has not issued anything about this merit badge to the local councils as-of-yet, they expect to do so sometime in December 2020.
3. There will be DEI requirements added to the ranks, of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class in addition to the DEI merit badge.
4. The DEI merit badge will be an elective merit badge effective January 1, 2021. On May 1, 2021 it will become a required merit badge for all Scouts who have not completed ALL Eagle requirements, except for their Scoutmaster's Conference and their Board of Review.
5. This will become the 14<sup>th</sup> required merit badge, there will still only be a total of 21 merit badges required for Eagle after May 1, 2021.
6. Initially, there will be NO merit badge book available, only notes for the merit badge counselor and a merit badge guide.
7. Obviously, the District will need to recruit merit badge counselors for this new merit badge as quickly as possible. Keep this in mind in late December and early January if you are interested in being a counselor for the badge, there is sure to be a rush to earn it after May 1.
8. In similar fashion, the DEI requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class will be elective from January 1 to May 1, 2021. After May 1 they will be required for all Scouts who start on a new rank after May 1.
9. When I receive more information on these requirements and the merit badge, I will pass it on immediately.



## **B. EAGLE ISSUES:**

1. National Council will probably issue a new Eagle Application, on, or about May 1, 2021. If you have Scouts who have already started to fill in their applications, they may continue to use them until submitted to BAC until May 1. If a Scout is just starting to fill out his Eagle Application in proximity to May 1, 2021, please advise him to use the new version when it becomes available.
2. Baltimore Area Council advancement committee has directed that all Eagle Boards of Review be conducted virtually until the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Recently one of my cohorts in another district attended an in-person Eagle BoR one night and was informed the next night that someone in attendance at the BoR had tested positive. Thus, the Zoom will continue for the time being.
3. With the advent of female Eagle Scouts, the Eagle patch will NOT be changed in its design.
4. The following information is now posted on the council website under Eagle Applications:

**Original signatures are required on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. No copies are to be submitted for verification. When turning in the Eagle Scout Rank Application please include copies of ALL blue cards, ranks from book or an individual advancement report for the Scout. For example: The advancement report should come from Scoutbook or other form of advancement tracking. Please make sure the Date Earned is next to each Merit Badge and Rank Advancement.**

## **C. OTHER ADVANCEMENT ISSUES:**

### **1. The Horniday Award:**

This award will continue, but the name Horniday will be deleted due to some of the namesake's personal views or leanings in the past. More information to follow on this issue also.

### **2. Dealing with the restrictions imposed by COVID-19:**

- a. The temporary waivers issued this year for swimming requirements for Second Class and First Class will continue until the requirements can be accomplished in your locale. However, they MUST be completed before a Scout can stand for Eagle.
- b. Other requirements, like cooking or camping, can be accomplished on other than a troop camping trip. Camping requirements can be done by a Scout setting up a tent and camping in his/her back yard. Cooking for your Patrol can be accomplished by making sure that everyone in a patrol is assigned a specific task-and the results can be used to feed a family. In short, be creative and flexible.

### **3. COVID-19 Time Extensions:**

Baltimore Area Council has been authorized to issue these time extensions for EAGLE only through December 31, 2020. These extensions are for up to 3-months only. If you have a Scout that looks like he/she will not complete the requirements for Eagle before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, they can apply for an extension. The extension request must be sent to ME (not BAC or National) and include the following information:

- a. A letter from the Scout, their parent, or a troop leader requesting the extension and an explanation of why COVID-19 has impacted and impeded the Scout's ability to complete all Eagle requirements prior to his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- b. A letter from the troop leadership supporting the time extension.



- c. A copy of the Scout's Individual Advancement Record from Internet Advancement or Scoutbook, indicating the CURRENT status of the Scout with respect to all outstanding merit badges.
- d. An indication of the current status of the Scout's Eagle Service project and when the Scout expects to complete it.
- e. A partially executed copy of BSA Form 512-077: Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank. This included the bottom two lines in the 4-column box and a statement in the large box at the center of the form

Please note that I need to prepare a report summarizing the submitted information and provide my own recommendation in support of the request. I then submit all of the above to the BAC Advancement Committee for review and a determination. If they are granted an extension, they will be issued a letter indicating the extension. A copy of this letter must be submitted with their Eagle application when it is turned in to the Scout Service Center and again with their completed Application at the completion of their Eagle BoR.

Scouts who receive one of these time extensions must also submit an Adult Application with the Position Code of UP on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and complete Youth Protection Training.

Yours in Scouting;

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