



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

5 March 2015

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

A. Eagle Requirements:



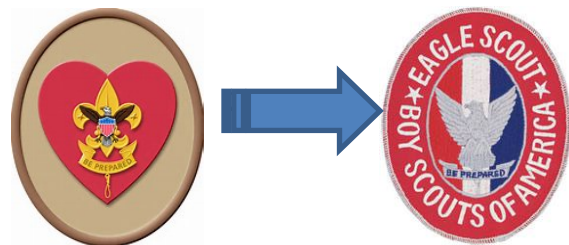
Reminder to all Troop Leaders, Eagle Coaches, and Troop Advancement Chairs: The current version of the Eagle Scout Application is the 2014 version. It is the **ONLY** version being accepted by National. It is available on the BAC website under “Eagle Forms.”

Eagle Scout Requirement 7 reads: “Successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review. In preparation for your board of review, prepare and attach to your Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service.”

At many recent Eagle boards of review, this form has been missing. I suspect that Scouts are following the directions on the application and turning these forms in at SSSC with their applications. Unfortunately, if that is the case, BAC does not forward them to me for review during the board of review. Dulaney troops should insure that the Scouts are filling this form out and turning them in to the Scoutmaster with their Application, workbooks, copies of their blue cards, and copies of their handbook rank advancement pages. The workbooks, Requirement 7 (a form that is available on the BAC website under “Eagle Forms”), the reference letters, and the Scoutmaster’s statement form about the Scout should be retained by the Troop and brought to the board of review. The Application, copies of the blue cards, and copies of the rank advancement pages from the Scout’s Handbook should be delivered to the front desk at Shapiro Scout Service Center (SSSC).

B. Life to Eagle Orientation:

The Spring Life-to-Eagle Orientation will be held during the Dulaney District Camporee, on Saturday morning April 18, starting at 9 AM in the Rosenberg Conference Center. Life Scouts, their parents and anyone needing this element to complete the Eagle Coach Training is welcome. There is no advance registration required.



C. Eagle Coach Training:

This training will also occur at the Dulaney District Camporee, on Saturday, April 18, 2015 starting at 10:30 AM, also in the Rosenberg Conference Center. This is the second part of the training required to earn the Eagle Coach patch. Hopefully this will be complete by 12:30 PM.

D. Counselor's Compass: Merit Badge Newsletter on the Horizon:

The Boy Scouts of America announces a new information resource entitled "Counselor's Compass." This publication, to be issued as an e-newsletter, will support merit badge counselors in four ways:

- **Things to do.** What new counselors should do prior to counseling a merit badge, such as become familiar with *Guide to Advancement* and the educational presentation, *Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling*, available under "Advancement Educational Presentations" at www.scouting.org/advancement.
- **Steps for Success.** Tips that can be helpful for both new and experienced counselors as they work with Scouts, such as the importance of using the latest pamphlet and requirements.
- **Glad You Asked.** Articles that address commonly asked questions sent to merit.badge@scouting.org.
- **News You Can Use.** Merit badge fun facts, and information on new badges.

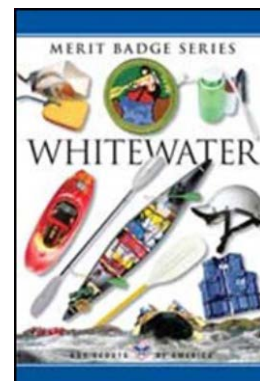
Managing Subscriptions to Counselor's Compass:

Subscribing to *Counselor's Compass* is similar to subscribing to *Advancement News*: Send a message to merit.badge@scouting.org, with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.

E. Merit Badges:

Whitewater Merit Badge Updated:

Data from the Outdoor Foundation¹ shows that each year roughly 20 million Americans participate in canoeing and kayaking activities. And in 2013, nearly 70,000 Scouts earned the Canoeing or Kayaking merit badges, placing these among the most popular badges not on the required list for Eagle Scout.² Many more Scouts are being exposed to canoeing and kayaking as part of summer camp, troop activities, or high adventure programs.



Both the Canoeing and Kayaking merit badges are conducted on calm, protected waters where winds, waves, and currents are seldom an issue. Some Scouts are happy to stay on those waters, but others are looking for more challenging conditions. The Whitewater merit badge is designed for them.

Scouts pursuing the Whitewater badge move out of calm waters into an environment where currents and waves are major factors. Here, Scouts learn and apply paddling skills in rapids rated up to Class II, which require maneuvering in waves of up to one or two feet.

In 2014, members of the BSA Aquatics Task Force worked with a wide range of highly experienced paddling instructors from the American Canoe Association to update requirements for the Whitewater merit badge. The work group included several professional paddling instructors who also had strong ties to Scouting as Scoutmasters, Eagle Scouts, or BSA summer camp staff members.

The task force and work group recommended several procedural changes. For example, the Scout Gate test was replaced by demonstrating the skills previously learned to earn the prerequisite Canoeing or Kayaking merit badge. Similarly, the required first aid skills were revised to bring the Whitewater merit badge in line with other outdoor skill badges.

Other changes include the addition of new strokes commonly used in whitewater paddling, and additional focus on individual rescue skills, both as a rescuer and a victim. The updated requirements also include changes in terminology to that currently used by the American Canoe Association (ACA) and in the American Whitewater

Safety Code.³ The result is a merit badge that more closely matches programs taught by top-rated whitewater instructors from the ACA and leading whitewater schools.

References:

Note 1: American Canoe Association's Paddlesport Statistics

www.americancanoe.org/?page=Statistics

www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/spp-documents/theoutdoorfoundationtopline2.pdf

Note 2: *Scouting Magazine*

blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/03/04/here-are-the-most-and-least-popular-merit-badges-of-2013-and-of-all-time

Note 3: American Whitewater

www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/safety:start

F. Special Necessities: Two Planning Forms Now Available Online:

The National Disabilities Awareness Committee has developed two forms to assist in serving Scouts who have disabilities:

Request for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility, No. 512-935

www.scouting.org/filestore/doc/512-935.doc

Youth members with severe physical disabilities or youth and adults with developmental or cognitive challenges may be able to “register beyond the age of eligibility” in the BSA. This allows them to work through the advancement program at a pace appropriate to their needs. The steps to do this are relatively easy and outlined in Topic 10.1.0.0 in *Guide to Advancement*.

A collaboration of parents, Scout leaders, and qualified health professionals can complete the information that must be submitted to the local council for approval. This team should have a good understanding of the Scout's abilities and disabilities, and how these will affect his ability to complete requirements for advancement.

Once approval is granted, the Scout executive or a designee sends a letter to the Scout's parent or guardian and the unit leader or committee chair. A copy of the letter is retained in the unit's registration file for as long as the Scout remains registered.

Individual Scout Advancement Plan, No. 512-936

www.scouting.org/filestore/doc/512-936.doc

An Individual Scout Advancement Plan is similar to individual education plans, used in schools to establish a student's special education eligibility. The Scouting plan is specific to each Scout and is prepared in a cooperative effort with parents, Scout leaders, and a health care professional. The objective is to chart a course through the advancement program that helps a Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout who has disabilities, to achieve as much as any limitations will allow. The form may also be useful in facilitating applications for alternative requirements and merit badges as outlined in Topic 10.2.2.0 of *Guide to Advancement*.

Yours in Scouting;

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