



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee *Venturing News*

11 November 2016

Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:

Most of the following is excerpted from the National Advancement News, July - December, 2016 issues:

A. Internet Advancement:



1. The bird shown at the left is the Dodo. It went extinct about 300 years ago.
2. The image to the right is of Advancement Report Form 34403. It will be following the Dodo bird into extinction effective April 2, 2017.



3. At this time only 50% of the Scout Troops and Cub packs in Dulaney District are using Internet Advancement, and none of the Venturing Crews appear to be using it.
4. After April 2, 2017, your unit will not be able to purchase advancement supplies (badges, patches, etc.) from the Scout Shops without presenting a copy of your unit's submitted internet advancement report. The three-page Form 34403 will no longer be accepted by Baltimore Area Council.
5. Training for Internet Advancement will be provided to Cub Packs and Scout Troops at the February Roundtable, Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Timonium United Methodist Church, at the corner of Pot Springs Road and Chantry Road in Timonium, MD 2093. No need to pre-register. Make-up training and training for Venture Units will take place at the March Roundtable, March 14, 2017. Please insure that your unit's Advancement Chair and/or other responsible person is present at one of these training events. The only other opportunity to receive this training will be at the Scouting University in March 11, 2107.
6. An additional reason for using Internet Advancement is covered in Item 2 below.

B. Extension Requests and the Importance of Updating Advancement Records:

Guide to Advancement topic 9.0.4.1 covers the process for submitting and evaluating requests for a time extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank, Summit Award, or the Quartermaster rank. When submitting an extension request it is critical that all advancement information be up-to-date before the extension request is submitted. This will help ensure that the review team will have all the information necessary to promptly make an informed judgment.

At the national level, requests are frequently received asking for additional time to complete an Eagle Scout service project stating that all other requirements have been completed. However, a quick review of ScoutNET will show several required and sometimes even non-required merit badges as not complete, when in fact they really have been. These inconsistencies can result in significant delays in reviewing extension requests and in some cases might even have a negative impact on the final decision. That is why it is vitally important that the local council must confirm that the records are current before an extension request is sub-mitted to the national office.

Although the primary problem area with extension requests is with merit badges, it is also very important that correct rank advancement dates be shown in ScoutNET. The latter is important because of the time requirements between First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks. A quick way to confirm what information is in ScoutNET is to request a "Person Listing" from your local council office then compare that information with troop records. If troop records show certain merit badges or ranks completed but ScoutNET does not, then immediate steps must be taken to update the council records.

The best way to keep the records up-to-date is to routinely (at least monthly) update all advancement via the Boy Scouts Internet advancement portal, either directly through Internet Advancement or uploading information from other software programs such as Scoutbook or Troopmaster. In some councils it is still possible to use a paper advancement report, although it is much better to do the reporting electronically.

C. Updates in process:

Both the Eagle Scout Rank Application and the ScoutNET system are in the process of being updated. This revision will reflect a number of positions that have been updated to qualify as Eagle Scout positions of responsibility. A listing follows.

In that list, please note that one position name change—changing Leave No Trace Trainer to Outdoor Ethics Guide.

Positions of Responsibility:

Boy Scouting:

- Troop Patrol Leader
- Troop Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Troop Senior Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide
- Troop Order of the Arrow Representative
- Troop Den Chief
- Troop Scribe
- Troop Librarian
- Troop Quartermaster
- Troop Webmaster
- Troop Outdoor Ethics Guide
- Troop Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Troop Chaplain Aide
- Troop Instructor
- Troop Historian

Venturing:

- Crew President
- Crew Vice-president
- Crew Secretary
- Crew Historian
- Crew Den Chief
- Crew Treasurer
- Crew Guide

Crew Quartermaster
Crew Chaplain Aide
Crew Outdoor Ethics Guide

Sea Scouting:

Ship Boatswain
Ship Storekeeper
Ship Boatswain Mate
Ship Purser
Ship Yeoman
Ship Crew Leader
Ship Media Specialist
Ship Specialist
Ship Den Chief
Ship Chaplain Aide

Please note that Assistant Patrol Leader and Troop Bugler are not included on the above list.

D. Pathfinder Award Project – for the Next Generation:

The Pathfinder Award Requirement requires the Venturer to “Plan, organize, and give leadership to a project designed to sustain and grow your crew. Submit the plan to your crew president (or Advisor, if you are president), and explain how you think it will encourage more young people to join Venturing.”



All Venturers have an obligation to help build and sustain the crew for the next generation of Venturers. The purpose of a crew sustainability project is to help your Venturers continue help their crew to grow and thrive. Sustainability is about the capacity to endure. In Venturing, sustainability involves good stewardship of crew resources and ensuring that the crew and the opportunities it provides for others will continue into the future. A sustainability project, whether a long-term project or a single event, should support the crew’s ongoing viability by attracting new members and/or the crew’s ability to continue to follow its chosen path of adventure.

Different crews have different needs. Venturers will work with crew officers to help identify some of the ways the crew would benefit from a project designed to introduce others to the crew. Using a high interest event in collaboration with peer to peer recruiting provides the greatest impact on sustaining Venturing crews.

E. New Sea Scout Manual Signals Program Changes:



When the new edition of the *Sea Scout Manual* arrives soon in Scout shops, several significant changes will be noticeable. A section on paddlecraft has been added to support new paddlecraft alternatives to some of the traditional Sea Scout rank requirements. Other changes have been made to advancement as well, the most significant of which is the reorganization of electives.

Electives no longer follow the requirements for each rank. They have been organized into strands that support maritime careers, military preparation, and recreational boating. As the BSA develops new partnerships, this new organization will make it easier to add new elective options that youths may pursue.

In addition, electives now have been assigned a level of difficulty. A youth working on Ordinary rank may work on any three electives. Level 2 electives and higher are for youths working on Able rank, while a Quartermaster candidate is restricted to Level 3 electives only.

When advancement changes, recording tools must also change. Updated unit recording tools for advancement and the awards may be found at the official Sea Scouts B.S.A. website: www.seascout.org Keep in mind that these are for unit purposes. The *Guide to Advancement* makes it clear that the goal for every unit is to work toward 100 percent electronic data entry at www.my.scouting.org

F. Eighty-three Have Earned Venturing Summit Award:

Since the creation of the Summit Award only two years ago, 83 intrepid Venturers have earned Venturing's pinnacle award, which is similar to that of the Eagle Scout rank for Boy Scouting or the Quartermaster Award for Sea Scouting.

To attain the Summit Award, each Venturer must first work their way up through the prerequisites and earn in sequence the Venturing, Discovery, and Pathfinder awards. The Summit Award itself then focuses on four distinct areas revolving around adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. By design, the award is meant to challenge a Venturer, provide a mentorship opportunity for the Venturer, and personally grow the Venturer's abilities.



Both Venturing youth and adult leaders can help to support members of a Venturing crew to earn this prestigious award. Most crews provide a program structure that already fits into the awards model for Venturing. Leaders should help ensure that each award requirement is understood so that as the crew's planned program structure is carried out and individual requirements are completed, those requirements can be signed off as appropriate for each crew member in attendance. A helpful tracking template is available at:

www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Venturing/Awards.aspx

One recommended best practice is to review this chart or spreadsheet with each crew member periodically during the year to see what is still left to be completed.

Imagine the success of the Venturing crew with having multiple Summit Award recipients able to provide a mentorship aspect to the crew's younger members? Not only that, but it helps to keep the youth members engaged in the program, and the longer they are engaged, the longer they will remain in the program.

Yours in Scouting;

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