



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

2 March 2018

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

These items are reprinted from the National Advancement Newsletters of Jan-Feb 2018



A. EAGLE ISSUES:

1. **Boards of Review Errors Do Not Prevent Future Advancement**

Occasionally, in preparing for a Scout's board of review for his next rank advancement or at some other time, it may be discovered that a previous board of review made a mistake and inadvertently advanced a Scout in rank who had not actually completed all the requirements for that rank. Some examples of these errors include:

- Insufficient number of merit badges – five for Star rank, instead of six.
- Incorrect mix of required and optional merit badges - three required and three optional merit badges instead of four required and two optional for Star rank
- Insufficient time between ranks or service in a position of responsibility - four months instead of six between Star and Life ranks.
- Improper position of responsibility - assistant patrol leader, grubmaster, etc.

While unfortunate, and clearly pointing to the need for additional education for adult volunteers, these errors must **not** be cited as a reason for denying a Scout a future advancement opportunity. "Once a Scout has been advanced in rank, advancement errors subsequently discovered must not be held against him for any future advancement, even if the requirements were not properly completed." (*Guide to Advancement, 9.0.1.3*). The previous advancement stands as is and must not be held against the Scout for any future advancement. The Scout must not be required to "go back" and do something over to correct the error. We do not penalize a Scout for errors made by adults. For future advancement, it is only necessary that the Scout complete all the requirements for the rank currently under review to be advanced to that rank, including Eagle Scout rank.

2. **Life-to-Eagle Orientation & Eagle Coach/Mentor Training:**



The next Dulaney Life-to-Eagle Orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 11 @ 7 PM at Havenwood Presbyterian Church, 100 East Ridgely Road, Lutherville, MD 21093. This is for Life Scouts who want to earn the rank of Eagle Scout and their parents and it is also Part One of the Eagle Coach/Mentor training.

Part 2 of the Eagle Coach/Mentor training will be held on Wednesday, April 18 @ 7PM, also at Havenwood.

B. Other Advancement Issues:

1. Scoutbook Lite to Replace Internet Advancement in the Second Quarter of 2018:

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is excited to roll out a new solution in the second quarter of 2018 that will leverage core components of the Scoutbook platform.

The current Internet Advancement platform will be retired and replaced by a new online tool called Scoutbook Lite.

This new application is being developed now from the ground up so that unit leaders can quickly key in advancement and other key data. It will sport a slick new user interface optimized for desktop, tablet, and mobile devices.

The BSA has found that less than 10% of units use the CSV (comma – separated values) data file import feature in Internet Advancement. In the interest of focusing on tools that serve more Scouters, the CSV data file import will not be supported once the current Internet Advancement platform is discontinued.

Other than the CSV import feature, Scoutbook Lite will offer optimized functions for everything found in the current Internet Advancement platform.

The Scoutbook database will become the official record of advancement for the Boy Scouts of America.

And we will continue to work on and improve Scoutbook as our full feature application.

And one more thing.

Are you a programmer?

For Scouters who are experienced in the development of apps or web platforms, the BSA is excited to announce the upcoming roll out of API's (application programming interface).

A selection of specific, read-only API's will be made available to Scouting volunteers in the first half of 2018. There are no current plans to roll out API's to third parties.

For more information, you may contact Tom Jansen at Thomas.jansen@scouting.org .

The process is graphically described on the next page:

INTRODUCING SCOUTBOOK

BEFORE SCOUTBOOK



SCOUT COMPLETES
ADVANCEMENT AND
RECORDS IT IN THEIR
HANDBOOK



SCOUT MEETS
WITH LEADER TO
REVIEW WORK



LEADER APPROVES
AND MARKS
ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE BOOK



ADVANCEMENT CHAIR
GATHERS ALL APPROVED
ITEMS FROM ALL BOOKS
FOR RECORD KEEPING



KEY 3 (OR DELEGATE)
SUBMITS AN INTERNET
ADVANCEMENT REPORT
TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL



ONCE RECORDED,
SCOUT IS RECOGNIZED
AND THE DATA IS GOOD.
YOU HOPE...

AT THIS POINT, YOUR SCOUT'S ADVANCEMENTS
ARE NOT FULLY IN THE BSA NATIONAL SYSTEM

BSA CURRENTLY HAS 3 DATABASES THAT HAVE TO BE SYNCED
TO MANAGE ADVANCEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP DATA

AFTER SCOUTBOOK



SCOUT COMPLETES
ADVANCEMENT AND
RECORDS IT IN
SCOUTBOOK.COM



SCOUT MEETS WITH
LEADER WHO LOGS INTO
SCOUTBOOK.COM AND
APPROVES ADVANCEMENT
THEN MARKS ACHIEVEMENT
IN HANDBOOK



ONCE APPROVED,
ADVANCEMENT DATA IS
AUTOMATICALLY RECORDED
AT THE COUNCIL
AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



SCOUT IS RECOGNIZED
AND THE DATA IS GOOD.
YOU KNOW.

LEARN MORE AT
[SCOUTBOOK.COM](https://scoutbook.com)

2. Merit Badges:

a. Fulfilling More Than One Requirement with a Single Activity:

Leaders often ask, “Can one activity count for multiple requirements?” [Topic 4.2.3.6 of the Guide to Advancement](#) explains it can, as long as these three conditions are met:

- The two requirements match up exactly.
- The two requirements have the same intent.
- The requirements do not state otherwise.

In some cases, the underlying activity may be the same, but different actions are necessary to fulfill the requirements as written. For example, camping in a tent on a troop outing counts towards the Second Class or First Class camping nights requirement and satisfies certain requirements for the Camping merit badge. Here, the requirements and intent are the same. Thus, the requirements do not forbid the multiple use of the activity for the requirements.

For the Scout working on Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badges, additional work is required. The Communication merit badge requires the Scout to attend a public meeting where several points of view are given on a single issue, carefully taking notes of each view, and then presenting a report to his counselor that includes all points of view. Citizenship in the Community, however, requires the Scout to attend a public meeting and report back to his counselor on what he heard and which side he agreed with.

Thus, if the Scout plans ahead to ensure the meeting program includes a discussion of issues, then both requirements could be met as written. He should report on all sides of the discussion for Communication and take a position on which side he favored for Citizenship in the Community.

The Hiking merit badge, on the other hand, states in the notes at the bottom of requirement 4, “The required hikes for this badge may be used in fulfilling hiking requirements for rank advancement. However, these hikes cannot be used to fulfill requirements of other merit badges.” This is a good example of where the requirement states otherwise. Counselors will encounter these types of situations. Understanding the aim of requirements is important.

3. Miscellaneous Helpful Merit Badge Tidbits:

In previous installments of this Newsletter, we covered subjects on: How to get started as a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC), understanding the process of Merit Badge Counseling (MBCing), some myths and facts of counseling, the “blue card”, and dealing with “partial” merit badges.

Here are a few additional odds and ends related to merit badges and merit badge counseling:

Discontinued Merit Badges

Scouts are not allowed to “begin” work on discontinued MBs. See [Topic 7.0.4.4 in the Guide to Advancement](#) for more information.

“Interactive” and Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets (MBPs)

“Digital” MBPs are basically just PDF versions of the standard hardcopy MBP, no frills, no web links, and no animations. “Interactive” MBPs are electronic versions of the MBP with “frills”, web links, animation, and much, much more. The former items are still available on Amazon, the latter (of which there are 20 merit badges currently available, including all the Eagle-required ones.) Additional merit badges are currently undergoing some production platform changes. The new and improved “interactive” MBPs will be covered more thoroughly in a later edition of [Advancement News](#).

The “Family Scouting Program”

Much has been circulated about the major enhancement to the Scouting program to include girls in both the Cub Scout Program (mid 2018) and into the Boy Scout Program (2019). Rank and merit badge requirements are for registered Boy Scouts and Lone Scouts and qualified Venturers and Sea Scouts ([Guide To Advancement Topic 4.2.01](#)).

No changes to the merit badge program (current merit badges or their requirements) or merit badge counseling is anticipated, including the ironclad requirement for Youth Protection Training for all merit badge counselors.

Rank and merit badge requirements are for registered Boy Scouts, Lone Scouts and qualified Venturers and Sea Scouts ([Guide To Advancement Topic 4.2.01](#)).

4. 2018 Boy Scout Requirement Book on the Horizon:

Each year, an updated [Boy Scout Requirement Book](#) is issued. Usually released in January of each year, it will cover some important topics from changes presented in 2017:

Merit Badges:

The updating and editing of each merit badge is a dynamic process where every merit badge is periodically reviewed by a National Task Force. Requirements for merit badges may be added, dropped, or changed depending on the review by this task force and the specific subject matter experts called in to assist in this review. Though the printing and release of an updated printed merit badge pamphlet (MBP) may occur anytime during the year, the final word on current MB requirements is always released in the updated [Boy Scout Requirements Book](#) for the current year. Remember to follow the information as set out in the [Guide to Advancement, Topic 7.0.4.3](#) for more on this topic.

Eagle Palms:

As outlined in this Newsletter in November, the Eagle Palms awards presented to Boys Scouts who earn 5, 10, 15 or more additional merit badges beyond the 21 required to become an Eagle Scout, incurred a significant change in the earning of these awards. Palms earned before completing the Eagle board of review may be earned by the Boy Scout without the three-month waiting period between awards. Additional changes were made in the tenure and leadership requirements as well as elimination of the previously required Eagle Palm board of review.

Swimming Requirements:

Limited exceptions for certain swimming requirements were also reviewed in the November Newsletter. Due to the possibility of a resource barrier in completing the requirements, the need to have access to a swimming pool or a safe outside body of water was addressed. Directions were provided for the council Scout executive and advancement committee to authorize an alternative requirement under strict guidelines.

Revised Campout Requirements:

Revised requirements for rank advancement became effective August 1, 2017. The new requirements recognize that not all outdoor activities need to include overnight camping. The change in requirements as provided in detail in the November Newsletter apply to Second Class and First Class ranks. The Camping merit badge requirements remain unchanged.

A Wonderful Ending Requires a Great Beginning:

A wonderful ending requires a great beginning. When that 11-year-old stands at the threshold of our troop meeting, what is that wonderful ending we desire? We want the boy to hike the long trail to Eagle. We help the boy become a man who lives a life devoted to the Scout Law and Oath.

That great beginning needs to start with a warm, friendly welcome. We must be prepared to be sure that our first-time visitor is included in the pre-meeting activities. We had better be sure that after he joins, he earns the Scout rank very quickly. We must be prepared to recognize that rank achievement with due ceremony.

We must put him in a patrol where he will be supported and mentored. Some units use a new Scout patrol. If we do this, we need to make sure resources are available in terms of older boys and assistant Scoutmasters that will support these new boys. We must have a program in place that will lead him to First Class Scout in 12 to 18 months. Other troops assign new Scouts to existing patrols. Again, the resources to insure a good outcome need to be in place. His patrol must get him ready for his first campout and help him during that campout to make sure he has a positive experience.

We need to have a troop program that is filled with adventure that will keep him in Scouting until he ages out. We must have plans in place to go to summer camp. It is well known that a first-year exciting summer camp experience will keep him in Scouting longer. We must make sure we have a program in place that educates his parents about the Scouting program so that they will be supportive of his Scouting adventure.

If we are prepared in this way, we will achieve the wonderful ending that we desire. Now, isn't that what we're all about?



Yours in Scouting;

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