



## *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee* *Venturing News*

9 August 2019

### **Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:**

Most of the following is excerpted from the National Advancement News, Mar-Aug 2019 issues:

#### **1. Venturing Leadership Award:**

Each year there are countless unsung Venturers who work to help further the Venturing program and make the program a meaningful and worthwhile experience for everyone. Did you know that these individuals can be recognized?

Venturers and Advisors can be awarded the Venturing Leadership Award, or VLA, for showing outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and fellow Venturers. This is an award that is given out at four different levels: Council, Area, Region, and National.

Candidates can be nominated on an annual basis by fellow Venturers and Advisors at the level at which the Venturer has contributed. Then, a group of former VLA recipients at that level will be formed to create a selection committee that will review all the nominations and determine the best recipient(s) for the award. Finally, all selected candidates should be publicly recognized and honored with the award.

If you know someone who is extremely hard working in Venturing, make sure that this person gets the recognition that they truly deserve. The nomination form, list of qualifications, nomination deadlines, and all additional information about the Venturing Leadership Award can be found at <http://www.venturing.org/vla.html>.

#### **2. Scoutbook:**

##### **a. Online Tool for Managing Advancement for all units:**

As of January 1, 2019 Scoutbook, the Boy Scouts of America online tool for managing and tracking Scouting advancements, is *Free*. What does this mean for your unit? Units will no longer need to utilize Internet Advancement to enter their advancement records. Rest assured, Internet Advancement will not be going away at this time. The Boy Scouts of America is however, encouraging all Units to setup and utilize Scoutbook as their main unit management tool. Any advancement entered via Internet Advancement will sync to Scoutbook and can be seen by the unit, parents, and Scouts.

BSA will begin upgrading Scoutbook this year. The initial change will include a profile, unit roster, advancement 'quick entry' feature, and reports. Additional modifications will be phased in throughout the year and users will have access to both the new and old features using their current login credentials. The current platform will

continue to be supported and maintained. As changes are implemented, communication will be posted in the Change Logs on the Scoutbook Forums.

### **b. Internet Advancement 2.0 Arrives:**

A new tool to quickly input advancement data, *Internet Advancement 2.0* (previously known as **Scoutbook Lite**), is now live. This free solution replaces the previous Internet Advancement platform, which was retired (for all programs except Exploring) on June 10, 2019.

*Internet Advancement 2.0* features a clean, new user interface for all of the functions found in the previous Internet Advancement platform and is optimized to whatever device you use: desktop, tablet, or smartphone.

It can be accessed by unit Key 3 users, unit Key 3 delegate users, and unit advancement chairs. End users will access *Internet Advancement 2.0* via one of the following locations using their [www.my.Scouting.org](http://www.my.Scouting.org) credentials:

- Scoutbook.scouting.org
- From the Legacy Tools menu in my.Scouting.org
- A link in Scoutbook.com
- From the current Internet Advancement Platform

After initial release, the BSA IT team will continue to add additional features on a regular basis. Updates and new features will be communicated with the field as they are delivered.

For more information and answers to commonly asked questions, visit: <http://help.scoutbook.com>

### **3. Youth from Other Countries:**

In this day and age of a broader international community, more frequent global travel, and multi-national job reassignments to include military and other government-related personnel movements, it is not uncommon to have Scouts from another country joining a new or transferring into a BSA unit. In the case of Scouts who have earned rank advancements in another country's Scouting program and wish to have them credited into an equivalent BSA rank, BSA has established rules and requirements to be followed, which can be found in *Guide To Advancement 2019 topic 5.0.4.0 (Youth from Other Countries)*.

This section provides guidance as to which youth are involved, registration procedures, and other specific details for determining the equivalency and/or applicability of requirements for determination of a BSA rank. For example, the procedures laid out in the topic apply to all ranks except Eagle Scout, which is not considered equivalent to any other Scouting association's rank.

Most importantly, the **GTA** also discusses the roles, responsibilities, and limits of a council's, district's, and receiving unit's advancement committees concerning these Scouts. Therefore, while BSA units can and should welcome youths from other countries who temporarily reside in the United States or have moved here, it is vital that everyone involved in these Scouts' advancement opportunities be familiar with the procedures discussed in topic 5.0.4.0. Of special note is that these procedures also apply to members of the BSA who, while living abroad, have earned advancement in another Scouting association.

### **4. Scouts BSA Advancement and Boards of Review for Venturers and Sea Scouts:**

Two significant changes in the *2019 Guide to Advancement*, covered in topics 4.3.1.4 and 4.4.0.1, involve Scouts BSA advancement in Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. Both were made to clarify responsibility for conducting Scouts BSA advancement boards of review.



Venturers and Sea Scouts who earned First Class rank when registered in Scouts BSA will remain qualified to continue with Scouts BSA advancement until their 18th birthday. A Scout may maintain multiple (dual) registration if they choose to do so, and work on advancement in either or both units simultaneously. However, once they have earned First Class rank, Scouts need not remain registered in Scouts BSA in order to continue earning Scouts BSA advancement.

If a youth chooses to register in both Scouts BSA as well as in either a crew or a ship, they may receive credit for work performed in either unit. However, unit leaders, along with the Scout, must decide which leader will oversee the Scout's BSA advancement. It is important to do this so that completed advancement requirements are properly reported in a timely manner through the BSA's Internet portal for advancement. The intent is not to limit advancement opportunities but to centralize reporting to avoid discrepancies.

If the qualified Venturer or Sea Scout is not registered in Scouts BSA, then the crew Advisor or ship Skipper will oversee the youth's Scouts BSA advancement. However, it is important for the Advisor or Skipper to understand that Scouts BSA advancement procedures must be followed, even though the youth may not be separately registered in Scouts BSA troop. For example, advancement boards of review for Star and Life ranks that are held by either the crew or ship committee must be conducted in accordance with Scouts BSA procedures. Eagle Scout boards of review involving Venturers and Sea Scouts will be held according to the local council's established procedures.

Regardless of whether they are held by a troop, crew, or ship, the procedures for organizing and conducting boards of review for Scouts BSA advancement can be found in [Section 8 of the Guide to Advancement](#). In particular, refer to topics 8.0.0.1 through 8.0.1.5.

## 5. Reminders for Processing Extension Requests:

Each month the National Advancement Program Team receives time extension requests that are incomplete or insufficiently documented. This can significantly delay their processing. Because most councils infrequently submit time extension requests, they may not be fully familiar with the correct processing procedures. [Guide to Advancement topics 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1](#) specify the conditions under which time extension requests will be considered, along with the procedures for researching the request, developing necessary documentation, and submitting it to the national office. Following are a few important reminders:

- All extension requests **MUST** be forwarded to the National Advancement Program Team for review and final determination if the Scout requests it, even if the council does not recommend approval.
- All documents must be signed and dated by the author of that document. Dates are especially important for determining the relevance and context of the information included in the statement.
- Timeliness is very important, especially for extensions of a short length of time. It is not required that the request be submitted before the Scout's 18th birthday, but it is preferred. However, if the request is submitted after the Scout's 18th birthday, an explanation for the delay must be stated. Councils should strive to complete their review and submit the request to the national office as expeditiously as possible after receipt of the initial request.
- When a time extension is requested, the Scout should continue working on remaining requirements as processing occurs. This is important to show the Scout's commitment to completing the requirements. Also, processing delays may not be grounds for adding additional time to complete the requirements.
- The request must indicate the number of months after the 18th birthday that will be necessary to complete the requirements.
- The request must document the circumstances impeding the Scout's ability to complete the requirements.
- The council advancement committee must perform a thorough review, interview the candidate and other individuals with direct knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the request, collect and submit all appropriate and relevant documentation necessary for the reviewers to make an informed decision, and ensure the candidate's advancement records are current.

- The council's position statement must list all requirements remaining to be completed with an estimate of when each one will be completed. For example, rather than saying something like "...five merit badges remain to be completed..." the statement should specify what those merit badges are and provide an estimate of when each will be completed.
- If the Eagle Scout service project remains to be completed, provide specific information about what the project entails and its current status. If available, include a copy of the Scout's Project Proposal, preferably one that is already approved by all concerned.
- If adult error is cited as one of the reasons for requesting a time extension, including a statement from that adult explaining the circumstances that led to the error is very important.
- If health-related reasons are cited for requesting an extension, a statement from a health professional must be provided. The statement should include a brief explanation of how the specific health issues have affected the Scout's ability to participate in Scouting activities and advance in rank.

## 6. Eagle Scout Service Project Workbooks: What Is Required?

The *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook (No. 512-927)* is a tool for Scouts to use when planning, developing, and leading their service project. When used as intended, the work-book very nearly assures Scouts a successful and fulfilling experience while carrying out their service project. However, sometimes leaders misinterpret the purpose of the workbook and focus un-duly on the book itself, rather than on the actual service project it documents.

Clearly stated, the workbook is not a requirement, but the service project is. Although requirement #5 says that the Scout must use the workbook, it is purposely ambiguous regarding how it is to be used. *Guide to Advancement topic 9.0.2.8* and the instructions in the workbook explain that Scout only need to use those parts that are necessary to help them have a successful project experience. It is not required that every part or every page be fully completed.

The intent of Eagle Scout requirement #5 is to provide a service to a beneficiary and by doing so continuing to help a Scout build character, citizenship, leadership, and fitness as they become adults. The workbook simply facilitates those efforts. Consequently, leaders must be careful not to allow their focus to be on the quality of the workbook itself rather than the service project. In the end it is the project that the beneficiary, the community, and the board of review will take note of, not the workbook.

Incidentally, from time to time, minor changes are made to the workbook and a revised edition will be published on the Advancement Resources web page. Just as we don't require all parts of the workbook to be completed, we do not require a Scout who has already started using an earlier version of the workbook to convert all previously documented work to the revised edition. Most changes that occur are minor in nature, so requiring a Scout to start over in a new workbook would be a poor use of time and create undue hardship for the Scout.

For example, the revised workbook which was published in January 2019 was made gender neutral, removed references to the previously required Tour and Activity Plan, and added dates to the cover page of each section. These were all minor changes, none of which impacted project development, execution, or reporting.

To ensure that this national policy is well understood a note has been added on the Advancement Resources web page that states: "Scouts who have already downloaded the previous October 2015 workbook may continue to use it." Naturally, Scouts who have not yet started on their project will need to use the January 2019 edition of the workbook.

## 7. Venturing and the Order of the Arrow:

As of February 1, 2019, Venturers can be elected into the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order of the Arrow recognizes Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well.



Arrowmen are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others. OA service, activities, adventures, and training for youth and adults are models of quality leadership development and programming that enrich and help to extend Scouting to America's youth.

For Venturers, the requirements to join the Order of the Arrow are the same as they have been prior to February 1st - one must be elected by his or her peers. Once someone is elected, they must complete an "Ordeal" that involves a day of service and learning various principles of the Order of the Arrow. There is then an induction ceremony to become a member.

The requirements to be eligible for election are as follows:

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Have experienced 15 nights of camping while registered with a troop, crew, or ship within the two years immediately prior to the election. The 15 nights must include one, but no more than one, long-term camp consisting of at least five consecutive nights of overnight camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. Only five nights of the long-term camp may be credited toward the 15-night camping requirement; the balance of the camping (10 nights) must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps of, at most, three nights each. Ship nights may be counted as camping for Sea Scouts.
- At the time of their election, youth must be under the age of 21, hold the Scouts BSA First Class rank, the Venturing Discovery Award, or the Sea Scout Ordinary rank or higher. Following approval by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Sea Scout Skipper, the Scout will be elected by the youth members of their unit.
- Adults (age 21 or older) who meet the camping requirements may be selected following nomination to and approval by the lodge adult selection committee.

Elections take place once per year. If any Venturing Crew is interested in having an election, they are invited to contact their local Lodge or Chapter leadership to schedule a unit election.

## 8. Sea Scouts BSA: Advancement Overview:

The essence of Sea Scouting can be summed up in four words: Scouting, service, seamanship and social. In Scouts BSA, everything done to advance is designed to educate or to otherwise expand horizons, with the mission to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Advancement for Sea Scouts has the same purpose.

Advancement for each of the four ranks, Apprentice, Ordinary, Able and Quartermaster, is organized into strands. Scouting, who we are and what we believe, is learned and practiced through Ideals, active membership, and leadership. Service is required to advance to Apprentice and Ordinary, and the Quartermaster project, similar to an Eagle project, encourages a youth to actively pursue good citizenship and stewardship. Seamanship skills are developed through Swimming, Safety, Marlinspike Seamanship, Boat Handling, Ground Tackle, Navigation Rules, Piloting and Navigation, Practical Deck Seamanship, Environment, and Weather. And the social element that is so important, the fun with a purpose, happens every time the youth are together in meetings, outings and events. Each rank adds more depth, complexity and responsibility.

So how do Sea Scouts accomplish rank advancement? Experiential learning is the key. A day sail is great fun, and youth leave the boat with a knowledge of knots, rules of the road, navigation, safety, and boat handling. They also leave the vessel with a hunger to know more.



Each unit's program is youth-designed and adult-supported. In their meetings, youth design and deliver the skill instruction, and programs typically cover topics needed to safely operate a vessel and advance in rank.

Scouts BSA have Camporees to display their skills, and Sea Scouts have similar opportunities called rendezvous or regattas. These events have twenty or more skills competitions and preparing to do well can provide weeks of instruction and practice that meets a multitude of advancement requirements. Sea Scouts also have an annual high adventure called a long sail. Planning, preparing, and executing a week or longer on the water meets and exceeds many advancement requirements. It goes without saying that advancement is the natural outcome of a well-rounded program that includes Scouting, service, seamanship and social.

Yours in Scouting;

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