



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

29 September 2021

### Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:

The information contained herein has been taken from the National Advancement Newsletters of September-October 2021.

### A. Eagle Scout Time Extensions—Review of GTA 2021:

Questions have recently arisen regarding the procedures to be followed by local councils with regard to Scouts who have been granted time extensions to complete Eagle Scout requirements beyond their 18th birthdays.

[The Guide to Advancement \(GTA\) 2021](#) states that **an Eagle Scout board of review may occur, without any special approval, up to 24 months after a Scout's 18th birthday (GTA 8.0.3.1)**. If a time extension (pursuant to [GTA 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1](#)) has been granted to a Scout, the date of the expiration of the extension is substituted for the Scout's 18th birthday when determining if permission is needed to conduct a Board of Review. In cases where the board of review is to be conducted more than 24 months after the Scout's 18th birthday or the expiration date of the time extension (whichever is later), **the candidate, the candidate's parent or guardian, the unit leader, or a unit committee member must submit a Belated Rank Application (GTA 11.3.0.0)**.

**Note that the 24-month grace period after the 18th birthday is NEW with the 2021 revision of Guide to Advancement; previously it was six months.**

Time extensions of up to 24 months were available for Scouts, both male and female, who joined the Scouts BSA program after February 1, 2019, and who were at least 16, but not yet 18 on that date. **These extensions, which are no longer available,** were designed to ensure that all Scouts joining the Scouts BSA program after February 1, 2019, would have sufficient time to complete the Eagle Scout requirements. For Scouts who were granted a time extension by the national council during this time period, the expiration date of these extensions would replace the Scout's 18th birthday when determining eligibility for an additional extension. Scouts who were granted such extensions may apply to their local council for an additional extension, if needed. Local councils have the authority (pursuant to [GTA 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1](#)) to grant time extensions of up to six additional months to Scouts who were previously granted extensions by the national council, provided that they meet the three tests outlined in [GTA 9.0.4.0](#).

For clarification, page 2 of *GTA 2021* and *GTA 9.0.4.1*, now defines a “month.”

*Definition of a month: As stated on page 2 of the **Guide to Advancement**, a month is a month regardless how many days it has. It is not defined as 30 days or four weeks. For example, the maximum extension of six months means the time period beginning on the Scout’s 18th birthday up to the corresponding day six months later, for example, February 2 up to August 2 or August 31 up to February 28 (or 29th if leap year). In essence, the extension expiration date acts like a pseudo 18th birthday, prior to which all requirements must be fulfilled. Six months does not mean 180 days.*

## **B. OTHER ISSUES:**

### **1. The Current Internet Recharter System Will Be Phased Out:**

To improve systems and increase the speed and efficiency in processes while reducing costs, the current Internet Recharter system will be phased out. All units with a charter expiration date of December 31, 2021, and beyond, will be submitted through a new system located in Internet Advancement 2.0 (<https://advancements.scouting.org>). This **ONLY** affects renewals with a charter expiration date of December 31, 2021, or later (*i.e.*: **DULANEY DISTRICT**). All other renewals will continue to take place in the current Internet Recharter system (ScoutNet).

More information and training materials will be released in September. See the FAQ for additional information.

- The new system in Internet Advancement 2.0 will open on October 15, 2021, for all charters with an expiration date of 12/31/2021.
- A training environment and walkthrough guides will be disbursed in mid-September.

### **2. Guide To Advancement 2021 Available and Effective Now!**

The 2021 **Guide to Advancement 2021** is out now, in PDF, and it belongs in the hands of anyone with "Youth Advancement" among their responsibilities—which is everyone! Get the *GTA 2021* at the Guide to Advancement website and download it now. It’s been expanded and updated, and it’s as error-free as is humanly possible- ever! At this time, the online pdf is the only version, they are **not** available at your local Scout shop.

### **3. Positions of Responsibility: The OA Unit Representative:**

As we have said previously in this series, all leadership roles in Scouting are important. Not only is leadership one of the aims of the BSA program, as well as a method of Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts and Venturing, many of these positions of responsibility also meet requirements leading toward rank advancement in Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouting.

This article will discuss the Order of the Arrow unit representative, which in Venturing is considered a crew guide, and in Sea Scouting, a specialist. All three are on the list of positions of responsibility acceptable for Star, Life, and Eagle advancement, and may also be used in venturing and Sea Scouts for equivalent advancements.





Order of the Arrow unit representatives serve as a communication link between their units and the local Order of the Arrow (OA) lodge. By enhancing the image of the OA as a service arm to the unit, they promote the OA, encourage youth to take part in all sorts of camping opportunities, and help pave the way for older youth to become involved in high-adventure programs. They arrange for OA election teams to conduct an annual OA election at a time approved by the patrol leaders' council, crew, or ship leadership. They also arrange with the unit and the lodge or chapter for at least one camp and/or high adventure promotion visit to the unit annually. Finally, they also serve as advocates in their units for environmental stewardship and Leave No Trace camping.

You can read more about this position of responsibility at <https://troopleader.scouting.org/oa-representative/> , and you can find the support pack for the position, including job descriptions, support resources, and best methods at <https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/UR-201905.pdf>.

As is often the case with other positions of responsibility, this position, as well as Order of the Arrow membership itself, can play an important role in learning leadership and keeping youth in the program longer.

### **C. SEA SCOUTS BSA:**

#### **Sea Scouts and GTA 2021: “Sail On”**

The new edition of *Guide to Advancement* may be out, but this is a sea story about the old ways of Sea Scout advancement – which have not changed, even if some of the terminology has (*GTA 4.4.0.0*). If you are unaware, or your memory is rustier than a 50-year-old sailboat, regarding how Sea Scouts advance, dive in.

When a youth joins Scouts BSA at age 10, or when the Arrow of Light Rank in Cub Scouts has been obtained, the Scout can advance at his or her own pace. The key in timing, is with completion on the work on the Eagle rank before the 18th birthday. Eagle Board of Review follows. For GTA 2021 guidelines, see the earlier article in this edition of *Advancement Newsletter*.

When a youth joins Sea Scouts at the age of 14, he or she advances through the ranks of Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, and Quartermaster. Sea Scouts have until the day before their 21st birthday to have their Quartermaster Board of Review (formerly Bridge of Review). In Sea Scouts, the Quartermaster is the top rank. While thousands earn Eagle each year, only 40 or so Sea Scouts earn the Quartermaster rank annually!

When a Scouts BSA youth is ready to perform an Eagle service project, he or she must go through a district's Eagle advancement representative, and the project must be approved by that person on the district level.

The same requirement applies to a Quartermaster project, which is considered the Sea Scout equivalent of the Eagle rank. To get their Quartermaster Project approved, candidates must go through the same District person that Eagle candidates do to get their Quartermaster service project approved.

Formal processes aside, what a lot of people do not realize is that Scouts can work on becoming Eagle while also being in a Sea Scout unit. Sea Scouts is a High Adventure wing of the BSA, so all the things that apply in Scouts BSA also apply in Sea Scouts. When you think about it, a lot of what is earned in Scouts BSA is applied in Sea Scouts – swimming, lifesaving, canoeing, first aid, shooting sports, maps, camping, cooking, youth protection, leadership training, and, of course, sailboats employ the knots Scouts BSA members learn and perform for rank advancement. So, you can work on your Eagle in a Sea Scout unit – called a ship -- work on your Sea Scout advancements in the ship or work on both.

But perhaps the best thing about Sea Scout advancement is that the Sea Scouts program keeps youths in the BSA longer. In fact, studies show that youths stay in the BSA about 2.5 years longer if they are in a High Adventure wing of the BSA, like Sea Scouts.

Yours in Scouting;

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