

Soaring News

News on advancement for the Susquehanna Council

Edition 18-5

October 2018

This newsletter is prepared by the Susquehanna Council Advancement committee as a resource for leaders of cub scout and boy scout units and merit badge counselors. Its purpose is to provide current information on changes regarding advancement, as well as clarifications of advancement requirements and tips, reminders, and guidelines on advancement.

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Youth Protection

- **A reminder that all leaders are required to complete the new youth protection (YP) training that is now available for staff, leaders, and parents.**

The new youth protection training is available online and can be accessed through My.Scouting.org. The training includes a three-module course and a test. Each module is a stand-alone activity and can be completed at different times (the individual does not have to do them all at the same sitting). It takes a total of about one and a half hours to complete all three modules and the test. The training encompasses Venturing and Exploring Youth Protection; therefore, those videos are no longer available.

Leaders who were trained in the former YP course and whose certification from that course was originally scheduled to last beyond September 30 have had their training records changed to reflect September 30 as their expiration date. In other words, **if you completed the YP training in 2017 or early in 2018, you must take this new course.**

Leaders with expired YP training will find that they cannot re-register in Scouting until they take the new course.

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- **Scouts BSA – temporary transition rules.** [from Implementation Details for Females Entering Scouts BSA prepared by BSA National]

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America will begin admitting girls into Scouts BSA (formerly the Boy Scout program). One of the characteristics of Scouting—for over a hundred years—is that no matter when you join, however long you stay, or the rank you attain, the Scouting experience prepares you for life. And for some, the pinnacle of their Scouting experience is achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The policies of the BSA indicate that, except in extraordinary circumstances, a youth desiring to achieve the rank of Eagle must do so before the youth's 18th birthday.

This will continue to be our policy.

It is in the interests of the entire BSA, and in fact our nation, that all girls who join the BSA in 2019 should have an opportunity to earn their Eagle badge should they diligently and promptly complete all requirements. Accordingly, after carefully considering recommendations from stakeholders, including feedback from volunteers and professionals at the 2018 Top Hands Meeting, the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America has approved the following temporary transition rules regarding extensions for youth over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 to complete the requirements for the Eagle Scout award.

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, no exceptions to or waivers of any of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award are permitted under this limited exception, and all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement).

Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18) nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, on February 1, 2019 who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019, may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age.

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2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Extensions must be in writing by submitting the designated form to the National Service Center and the form must be received no later than January 7, 2020. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual's registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019 – both girls and first-time joining boys.

Recognition

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate's award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting's values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated.

It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

FAQ

Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?

No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.

Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?

No. The Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council; that date will be noted to recognize this inaugural class.

- **Scouts BSA – completing requirements for Eagle Scout.** [from Implementation Details for Females Entering Scouts BSA prepared by BSA National]

FAQ

Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?

No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.

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Q: Can troops, districts or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?

No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.

Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?

No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Advancement Guide, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?

No.

- **Collection of information on Eagle Scout projects.** In order to preserve a record of the achievement by each scout that completes an Eagle Scout project, the Susquehanna Council is asking each scout to complete and submit a one-page form before or at their Eagle board of review with information about the project (information already recorded in the project workbook). This form will be retained by the council and the information may be used at future Scouting functions or in Scouting publications to help promote Scouting. The District Advancement Committee will provide the form.

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- **Contact info in each District for preparation and submission of Eagle project proposals, completed project work books, and applications.** If a leader, parent, or scout has a question or needs guidance on the preparation or submission of an Eagle project proposal, project work book, and/or application, contact one of the district advancement committee members listed below.

Bald Eagle District

Chuck Mertes	cmertes1@verizon.net	570-971-1312
Don Cohick	scoutpatches@hotmail.com	570-419-0181

Seven Bridges District

Dennis Slaybaugh	dls65@ptd.net	570-847-4556
Larry Conrad	legaleagle@ptd.net	570-286-5473

Merit Badges

- **Re-registration as a merit badge counselor.** After August 31, any individual that was registered as a counselor with the council last year and the council did not receive their re-registration letter prior to that date must now reapply to serve as a counselor. In order to reapply, the individual must submit a complete [Merit Badge Counselor Application](#) {click for link to the form}.
- **Training for merit badge counselors.**

All merit badge counselors are strongly encouraged to take the on-line training “Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training”. It is important that each counselor has a full and current understanding of their responsibilities and the recommended practices for quality counseling. A foundational aspect of the scouting program is having trained leaders.

If it has been more than two years since you have taken this training or never done the training, please complete the training. The training is available on my.scouting.org under the “BSA Learn Center”. The training includes the following:

 - a) A module entitled “Merit Badge Counselor – Before the First Meeting”. This module has five lessons with a quiz at the end of each. Each lesson is a stand-alone lesson and can be completed at different times (the individual does not have to do them all at the same sitting). It takes a total of about one hour to complete all five modules.
 - b) A module entitled “Merit Badge Counselor – Position Trained”. This module has one lesson with a quiz at the end. It takes a total of about 15 minutes to complete the module.
- **Merit Badge College.** Mark your calendars! Planning for the Merit Badge College is underway for the event to take place at the Pennsylvania College of Technology campus in Williamsport on February 16, 2019. Information on the Merit Badge College will be published and registration will open in early November 2018.

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Links

Guide to Advancement: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/>

Advancement News from the National Advancement Program Team,

Jan-Feb 2018: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/advancement_news/2018_Jan-Feb.pdf

Mar-Jun 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/a12ace4f-01d3-41b7-a8fb-6abd6cfcb6b3.pdf>

Jul-Aug 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/0fe935df-74b5-4d5d-8d88-6a2dfa196110.pdf>

Sep-Oct 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/29674875-4bb1-4d12-8eee-ee809f5a3f42.pdf>

Merit badge requirements: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Advancement and awards: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/>

Information for Life Scouts in the Susquehanna Council to help in attaining the rank of Eagle:

<http://councils.scouting.org/Council533/Advancement/For%20Eagle%20Scout%20Candidates>