



Information for Unit Leaders

GENERAL

This disc was prepared by the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee to assist Scout units with Advancement and Recognition. There are two principal sections, each contained in its own folder:

- ***Trail to Eagle.*** This contains all the information needed for a Life Scout to successfully complete the requirements for Eagle Scout Rank. It contains a new, revised District publication, “Guidelines and Helpful Hints for Eagle Scout Candidates – Second Revision, July 2008.” Also included is a self-running, narrated slide presentation describing the Eagle Scout Rank requirements. It runs about 15 minutes. Both the current Eagle Scout Rank Application in fill-in PDF format, and the current Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook in fill-in RTF format are enclosed. The sub-folder “Additional Resources” contains other files that the Scout and his parents may find useful.
- ***Merit Badge Counselors.*** A revised District publication, “Guidelines for Merit Badge Counselors – First Revision, July 2008” is included. This updates the first edition and includes information that was not available at the time of the original publication. The folder also includes forms you unit may require.

The other two folders on the disc (in addition to this folder) are supplements.

- ***Adobe Reader.*** Because most of the files included are in PDF format, software to load Adobe Reader on Windows and Mac computers are included.
- ***Additional Awards and Recognition.*** The last folder contains a number of different forms and documents which may be needed by your unit.

TRAIL TO EAGLE

The “Trail to Eagle” folder is configured so that units may copy only that folder to CD-ROMs to provide to Life Scouts. The District Advancement Committee strongly recommends units provide the Scout a hard copy of “Guidelines and Helpful Hints for Eagle Scout Candidates” at the successful completion of his Life Scout Board of Review. We do understand many units have provided Scouts copies of the former disc provided to units which included the First Revision of the Guidelines pamphlet. But at the very minimum, in addition to the disc, please provide a hard copy of the latest pamphlet from the front cover through Section 1. Do not wait until the Court of Honor. Each Scout

needs to clearly understand that achieving Eagle Scout Rank is obtainable within six months! (**The Guidelines pamphlet is paginated to permit double-sided printing as in a book.**)

Many of the units which have successful programs to advance Scouts to Eagle Scout Rank do so by designating an adult leader as an Eagle Mentor. The principal duty of this person is to coach (and to cajole) First Class, Star, and Life Scouts to move up the Eagle Trail. When a Scout achieves Life Scout Rank, the Eagle Mentor goes over the Guidelines pamphlet with him to make certain the Scout understands the requirements and the time requirements imposed. The mentor follows the progress of each Scout. He guides the Life Scout in selecting an appropriate Leadership Project. This is the adult leader who reviews the Project Workbook and Eagle Scout Rank Application for accuracy and completeness before sending the Scout to the District Advancement Committee representative.

With regard to Eagle Scout Leadership Projects, units must understand that projects should be appropriate for the age group of Scouts. The requirement by National Council does not expect the magnitude of work to be a discriminator for project approval. Large construction projects should be considered carefully. On the other hand, unit leaders must ensure that the individual boy is challenged to demonstrate leadership abilities. This is a project that the boy has to plan, develop, and execute by directing others. All adults – including parents – must allow him the opportunity to succeed on his own. By beginning the Scout early on the path, it permits him time to make corrections. If he doesn't make a good showing first, then guide him to be successful for the second effort.

You are well aware that units are not permitted to alter advancement requirements in any way. But, you may not be aware that requiring Life Scouts to undergo review by committee details of his project violates the National Council rule on not changing advancement requirements! He needs approval signatures from the unit leader (Scoutmaster) and the unit committee chairperson or representative in addition to the beneficiary organization representative and the District Advancement Committee member. This is where an Eagle Mentor can fit in if he is a member of the Unit Committee. Let him be the second approving authority in the unit as the representative of the unit committee.

A subfolder of this group contains checklists used for project approval and for the Eagle Board of Review. These are the same as the checklists contained in "Guidelines and Helpful Hints for Eagle Scout Candidates" except they do not contain the publication's headers and footers.

Note instructions on page 17 of the Guidelines pamphlet that a copy of the signed Eagle Scout Rank Application (both sides) and the Advancement Report be sent to the Chairperson of the District Advancement Committee by postal mail or email following the Eagle Board of Review.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

The latest revision of Merit Badge Counselor guidelines is enclosed for you to provide in whatever form you select to unit Merit Badge Counselors. Reading this document constitutes completion of training for these individuals; completion dates should be reported to the District Advancement Committee. Unit Advancement Chairs should be familiar with the objectives of the Merit Badge Program, explained in Section 1 of the Guide for Merit Badge Counselors as well as the requirements for counseling described in Section 2. Note that 13 merit badges have specific safety-

related qualifications for counselors. Unit leaders are the first screeners to assure Merit Badge Counselors are qualified in the subject matter they claim.

The current and correct Merit Badge Counselor Information Form (#34405) and the NCAC Supplement are included. The NCAC Supplement (page 2 of the set) is how the applicant explains the specific experience and training possessed to instruct each badge. The District Advancement Committee evaluates applications based on the descriptions in this section. For those badges which have safety-related requirements for counselors that stipulate outside training and certification (such as required for aquatics and shooting badges), copies of the certifications should be attached to the form 34405 to be filed with the District. Expiration dates for those qualifications are included in the remarks section of the Automated District Management System data base. Certifications to counsel those badges expires on the date the safety certification expires, therefore renewals should be submitted promptly.

Forms 34405 may be sent by postal mail or email to the Chairperson of the District Advancement Committee for approval.

CONCLUSION

The materials herein are prepared for unit use. Any suggestions for improvement are welcome. Please address your comments to the Chairperson of the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee.