

# **Black Feather District**

## **Policy and FAQ regarding Covid-19**

Scouting Units should continue to provide advancement opportunities and encourage scouts to participate in their advancement. Of course, units should follow current health guidelines and youth protection requirements, but there is still a lot that can be completed with the family and virtually. Please remember to follow existing advancement approvals provided by your unit.

There are several concerns regarding Scouts BSA and Eagle Scout Candidates that need to be addressed, including:

- Working on Merit Badges
- Council Approval on the Eagle Scout Application
- Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank
- Eagle Scout Board of Reviews
- Approval of Eagle Scout Project Proposals

### **Working on Merit Badges**

There is no reason why merit badges cannot be worked on remotely or with the family as long as the existing rules are followed.

The Scout is expected to follow the unit's merit badge process for obtaining and starting a merit badge blue card. Scoutbook can be used for starting a merit badge and for recording the Unit Leader's Signature.

The Merit Badge Counselor is expected to test and record completion of merit badge requirements as written. Obviously, there are requirements that cannot be demonstrated remotely and should not be marked as completed. In addition, the counselor should follow all youth protection requirements.

### **Council Approval on the Eagle Scout Application**

The Council offices are currently closed but applications can be sent to the DAC Unit Services email at [jessica.Blazek@scouting.org](mailto:jessica.Blazek@scouting.org). If a scout is expected to age out soon, review the Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank, identified below.

### **Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank**

The Guide to Advancement 9.0.4.1 provides a process for submitting an extension request for Earning Eagle Scout Rank. However, National is expected to provide temporary guidelines with regard to the current situation and is unlikely to follow the current process. The temporary process will help in expediting approval. We hope to have the new process updated soon. For now, send an email to the District Advancement Chair, Johnny Cordova at [jcoroot@gmail.com](mailto:jcoroot@gmail.com), and those requests will be tracked. Please include Unit - Scout Name - Birthday.

In the mean time, please verify that everything that the scout has completed is reported and accurate. If the unit is using Scoutbook, the dates in Scoutbook are the same dates the council has recorded. If the unit is not using Scoutbook, Internet Advancement 2.0 can be used and is available in [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org). That information is also the same dates the council has recorded.

### **Eagle Scout Board of Review**

The Guide to Advancement (GTA) states that, although boards of review are meant to be face-to-face, in rare situations it is permissible to use **videoconferencing**. GTA 8.0.1.6. The Guide to Advancement further states that the local council must grant permission to hold a videoconference board of review for the Eagle Scout rank. The Denver Area Council Advancement Committee has determined that the current outbreak of COVID 19 is one of those “rare situations” that makes it permissible to use videoconferencing for boards of review for the Eagle Scout rank. This policy will be effective immediately throughout the Denver Area Council and until the Council Advancement Committee determines that circumstances permit a change in the effective period. The use of videoconference for all boards of review must comply with the requirements stated in the GTA 8.0.1.6.

There is a concern with this method because we won't be able to provide signatures remotely. In this case, there are two options.

- The chair could coordinate signatures by scanning passing the scanned document and obtaining the updated application and Advancement Report with each new signature, then submitting the final eagle scout application and Advancement Report to DAC Unit Services email at [jessica.Blazek@scouting.org](mailto:jessica.Blazek@scouting.org)
- Or those on the board should record the board of review including date, time, attendees, and the result, then coordinate signatures after the fact; keeping in mind of health and safety guidelines of the time.

**Approval of Eagle Scout Project Proposals**

Follow the current process for submitting Eagle Scout Project Proposals. It is permissible to have the project approved using a phone call, as long as youth protection guidelines are followed. Similar to the board of review, we won't be able to provide signatures remotely. Again, record the approval date and obtain the signature at a later time. Health and safety concerns should be considered when scheduling the project.