

Seneca District Roundtable -- 8 September 2016

Boy Scout Split: Merit Badge Counselors and Rank Service Hours

Presenter: Jon Ruth

**A) Merit Badge Counselor Changes**

- 1) Beginning 1 September 2016, merit badge counselors in the Great Trail Council may only register for 15 merit badges.
  - a) Only 6 of those merit badges may be Eagle required badges.
- 2) There will no longer be official "Unit Only" merit badge counselors.
  - a) A counselor may always decline to be a counselor for a Scout.
- 3) The Merit Badge Counselor List by Badge will be available **only** on the Great Trail Council Web site, <GTCBSA.org>.
  - a) The list will be password protected.
    - 1) The password will change each September.
  - b) The password will be entrusted to a limited number of leaders.
    - 1) Unit: Leader, Committee Chair, and Advancement Chair
    - 2) Council: Advancement Committee

**B) Merit Badge Counselor Basics**

- 1) Only registered counselors may sign off on merit badges.
- 2) To register:
  - a) Submit an Adult Application for Position Code 42.
  - b) Submit a Merit Badge Counselor Information form.
- 3) A separate Adult Application is required for currently registered Scouters.
  - a) There is no charge for registering as a merit badge counselor.
- 4) Some badges require training and current certification from national organizations.
- 5) Merit badge counselor registration must be renewed each year.
- 6) For more information, go to <SenecaDistrict.org>
  - a) >> Training Page >> Merit Badge Counselor Training Link

**C) Service Hours for Scouts Participating in an Eagle Service Project**

- 1) Question: Under the new Boy Scout rank requirements, can Scouts working on the early ranks or Star or Life earn service hours by participating in an Eagle Scout Service Project?

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C) **Service Hours... (cont'd)**

2) Answer: Yes.

a) The explanation is found in the *Guide to Advancement 2015*, Section 4.2.3.3:

**4.2.3.3 Service Projects**

"Basic to the lessons in Scouting, especially regarding citizenship, service projects are a key element in the Journey to Excellence recognition program for councils, districts, and units. They should be a regular and critical part of the program in every pack, troop, team, crew, and ship.

"Service projects required for ranks other than Eagle must be approved according to what is written in the requirements and may be conducted individually or through participation in patrol or troop efforts. They also may be approved for those assisting on Eagle Scout service projects. Service project work for ranks other than Eagle clearly calls for participation only. Planning, development, or leadership must not be required.

**"Time that Scouts spend assisting on Eagle service projects should be allowed in meeting these requirements.** Note that Eagle projects do not have a minimum time requirement, but call for planning and development, and leadership of others, and must be pre-approved by the council or district. (See "The Eagle Scout Service Project," Sec. 9.0.2.0.)"

3) Service Hour Requirements for Junior Ranks

a) If a service project is approved by the Scoutmaster, then the work a Scout does on that project counts towards his total for a rank.

1) Work on multiple projects may be combined to meet the requirement.

b) Total Service Hour Requirements:

1) Tenderfoot -- 1 hour

2) Second Class -- 2 hours

3) First Class -- 3 hours

4) Star -- 6 hours (while a First Class Scout)

5) Life -- 6 hours (while a Star Scout)

c) Qualifications:

1) The First Class project(s) (Req. 9d) must be different than the project(s) used for Tenderfoot (Req. 7b) and Second Class (Req. 8e).

2) Life requires at least three hours of work on a conservation-related project (Req. 4).

You can download a copy of this handout from <SenecaDistrict.org>.

Go to the Roundtable Page and click on the "Boy Scout Split" link.