



PTAC COVID-19 Advancement Information – Update 5/4/2020

As a response to the health and safety concerns caused by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee, along with guidance from the National Advancement Team of the Boy Scouts of America, is providing this information to keep our youth filled with opportunities to continue advancement and experience as many programming opportunities as possible.

UPDATES

The most up-to-date national advancement updates and changes due to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>

VIDEOCONFERENCING

In order to assist youth with opportunities to continue advancement progression during this time, we have approved the use of videoconferencing for Eagle Scout Board of Reviews and Merit Badge counseling. Please note: All YPT and Guide to Safe Scouting guidelines must be followed, including having two-deep leadership. Please see this article published by Bryan on Scouting regarding this topic:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/16/how-to-conduct-a-board-of-review-through-videoconferencing/>

VIRTUAL MERIT BADGES

PTAC offers multiple FREE virtual Merit Badge classes and sessions. Please check here for the latest schedule update and offerings: <https://scoutingevent.com/456-ScoutingOnline>

Scouts can also continue to contact any certified merit badge counselor and ask if they are willing to work remotely.

VIRTUAL CAMPING NIGHTS

In light of the extended period of camping restrictions attributable to COVID-19, the following temporary modification is being made by the PTAC Council Advancement Committee until September 1, 2020. Virtual camping may be counted toward the required nights of camping for rank advancement and merit badge requirements if all of the following conditions are met:

To be counted, all virtual camping nights should be a direct result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and be part of a BSA unit-organized unit camping event (a unit camping event is defined as multiple members of the unit are involved and camping simultaneously at remote locations)

Some form of unit-organized communications should occur either during or immediately following the event

All existing Youth Protection Policies and Digital Safety Guidelines must be followed

No more than 3 nights of virtual camping are to be credited in any month which government or council-imposed COVID-19 restrictions are in place

Arlington Heights Service Center
617 E. Golf Road, Suite 101
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

LaGrange Service Center
811 W. Hillgrove Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

Robert J. Welsh Service Center
8751 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321

Steve Fossett Service Center
1218 W. Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60607

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ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION, VERIFICATION, AND SIGNATURES

When it is time to turn in your completed Eagle Scout/Summit Award/Quartermaster application/paperwork, because the offices are closed, you can submit them electronically to: PTACAdvancement@gmail.com. Please note: digital and scanned signatures have been approved during this time. In addition, you do not need to wait for verification before the final Eagle Board of Review is conducted. PTAC professionals will contact you if anything is found needing attention with your application.

EAGLE/SUMMIT/QUARTERMASTER TIME EXTENSIONS DUE TO COVID-19

The PTAC Advancement Committee has been granted the authority to grant a 3-month extension for those scouts working on Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster and it can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work.

If you feel that COVID-19 has disrupted a youth's progression, please send an email to PTACAdvancement@gmail.com as soon as possible with the following information:

- Name
- Unit
- Date of 18th Birthday
- Details of situation/request
- List of any items remaining to complete including merit badges, leadership roles, etc.
- Current status of the service project and if it is already approved by your District

Should you need to seek additional information about your specific situation, please reach out to: PTACAdvancement@gmail.com and we can provide individual guidance and recommendations.

Currently, these COVID-19 changes and exceptions expire on September 30, 2020.

EAGLE/SUMMIT/QUARTERMASTER CREDENTIALS

Please note that fulfillment requests for Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster certificates, cards, and letters from the National Service Center and National Supply will be delayed during this COVID-19 time due to the furlough of many employees.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee at: PTACAdvancement@gmail.com or Alex.Lohse@Scouting.org.

In Service,
Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee

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