



## PTAC COVID-19 Advancement Information FAQ

Updated 9/29/2020

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

Several temporary changes have been made to rank advancement/camping requirements given the need to maintain social distancing during this time, to allow Scouts to complete rank requirements, by video conferencing through December 31, 2020. This deadline will be re-evaluated as needed. 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

Scouts can also continue to contact any currently registered merit badge counselor and ask if they are willing to work remotely. Scoutbook is a great resource to find the most updated list of merit badge counselors.

### 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 December 31, 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

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### **ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION, VERIFICATION, AND SIGNATURES**

Eagle packet verification was suspended while offices were closed, please be advised that we have restored the process of verification before conducting the final Eagle Board of Review.

When it is time to turn in your completed Eagle Scout/Summit Award/Quartermaster application/paperwork, please drop off your packet to one of our (4) Service Centers. We have safe drop-off points arranged at each location. For addresses to our Service Centers, please see:

<http://pathwaytoadventure.org/contact/>

If you would like to submit paperwork electronically for verification, please contact Kathy Frantzen at: [Kathy.Frantzen@Scouting.org](mailto:Kathy.Frantzen@Scouting.org).

***Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted until further notice.***

### **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](mailto:PTACAdvancement@gmail.com) as soon as possible with the following information:

- Name
- Unit
- Date of 18<sup>th</sup> 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
- Name and email address of Scoutmaster

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

Currently, these COVID-19 changes and exceptions expire on December 31, 2020.

### **EAGLE/SUMMIT/QUARTERMASTER CREDENTIALS**

Please note that fulfillment requests for Eagle certificates, cards, and letters from the National Service Center and National Supply are experiencing delays due to COVID-19. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

Should you have any additional questions, please contact the Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee at: [PTACAdvancement@gmail.com](mailto:PTACAdvancement@gmail.com) or [Amy.Hutcherson@Scouting.org](mailto:Amy.Hutcherson@Scouting.org).

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