



PTAC COVID-19 Advancement Information FAQ

Updated 4/1/2021

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 given the challenges of COVID-19 and the need to maintain social distancing during this time. 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

The Pathway to Adventure Council Advancement Committee is hosting a virtual Merit Badge Academy from now until May 22, 2021! To see the course offerings and to register, please go to:

<https://scoutingevent.com/456-VirtualMBA2021>

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.

EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT WORKBOOK

Please be advised that there is an update to the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. The latest version can be found [here](#). The form can be completed using the free version of Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader.

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 are appreciated.

**Des Plaines Valley
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811 W. Hillgrove Avenue
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(312) 421-8800

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VIRTUAL CAMPING NIGHTS

Considering the extended period of camping restrictions attributable to COVID-19, the following temporary modification is being made by the PTAC Council Advancement Committee until further notice. Virtual camping may be counted toward the required nights of camping for rank advancement and merit badge requirements if all 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

APPLICATION SUBMISSION, VERIFICATION, AND SIGNATURES

When it is time to turn in your completed Eagle Scout/Summit Award/Quartermaster application/paperwork, the preferred method requested is to drop off your packet to one of our (4) Service Centers for verification. 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 arrange to submit paperwork electronically for verification, please contact Kathy Frantzen at: Kathy.Frantzen@Scouting.org.

Electronic or digital signatures are accepted.

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

The PTAC Advancement Committee has been granted the authority to grant extensions 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 advancement progression, please send an email to PTACAdvancement@gmail.com and complete the following form located [here](#). The form can be completed using the free version of Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS

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

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