

## Chief Kiondashawa District Life to Eagle Scoutmaster Help list

Dear Scoutmaster and/or Troop Advancement Chairman,

The Advancement Committee asks that you please take the time to discuss **in detail** the following items with your life scout as they prepare to become an eagle scout. There seems to be some confusion and your meetings are the best place to clarify this.

- Review the scout's status on all his eagle required merit badges.  
Make sure there is enough time to complete all required badges. Remember personal fitness and personal management each take a minimum of 90 days. Print a copy of the scout's record from the internet advancement. If there is a question you will give yourself time to locate records to fix the problem.
- Discuss possible projects. Make suggestions if the boy really needs help.
- Give the scout the steps from life to eagle sheet as a helpful guide.
- Reinforce that this is to be a **leadership service** project. The **service** provided to the benefiting organization is the **goal** of the project, not just a project to provide big showy physical items. Also suggest that just having dad pay for everything **does not show leadership either**. It just looks like he bought the eagle rank.
- In this day and age the problem of money not being used for what it has been donated for is under the public eye. So no one is accused of misusing or keeping donations, all funds should go through the troop account. Scout troop checks really should be used to purchase items if at all possible, not just as a reimbursement to the parent. The easiest way to handle this is to have the benefiting organization pay directly and don't handle money at all.
- Something that has changed in the past year is the way donations are credited. The scout must emphasize that all donations are being made to the benefiting organization not Boy Scouts.
- Tax deductions are made in the name of the organization, NOT SCOUTING. Scoutmasters may not write tax deductible slips any more either.
- Finally on money, any funds left over at the end of the project must be returned to the donor or given to the benefiting organization. This extra cannot be kept by the troop. Proof that the money was returned is required.
- All the necessary paperwork is online from <http://www.frenchcreek-bsa.org/> Click on resources hold and move to advancement then go to resources on right and scroll down right side to the bottom. Here will be the writable Eagle workbook, eagle rank applications and the reference forms. They are all to be typed on the computer and then printed. They are in pdf that can be saved and corrected. The Eagle application and reference letters are needed when the project is completed.
- Please do not sign your name to the workbook before or after completion of the project until you have carefully checked that everything is completed. Please do not sign and **assume** the scout will get the rest. (The lists are on the attached form) We request you don't sign the approval until you are meeting with us at roundtable. There is an oath that is to be said with us in a group.
- The scout should wait until the meeting too.
- **None** of the forms are to be retyped. They are preferred to be typed in the blue boxes on the computer pdf form. When things are retyped they are no longer official.
- When the project is complete and the scout requests the recommendations, have these forms mailed to your advancement chairman or you. I know it says send them to council but there is so much paperwork going through that office these forms get mixed in with other stuff and get lost. Also there is no way the scout will know if the forms were really sent. The advancement chairman before me set up a system of having all the forms mailed to the scoutmaster or advancement chairman. **DO NOT** open the envelopes; just include them in the packet when it

is mailed. If **you or the advancement chairman** doesn't mail the packet, mark the envelopes appropriately and send them to the council office. The Scout is never to handle these completed forms.

- Make sure to use the **Eagle Rank Application that is dated 2014** on the back bottom corner. Council reminded me this form changed and the old forms are no longer valid. Throw away any old forms you have. This application must be filled in on the computer.
- The major change is that cooking is a required merit badge. It doesn't matter when it was earned. It does not need done by the new requirements. It does not need to be the new one with a silver ring. If it was started with the old requirements, it should be finished with the old requirements.
- You as the scoutmaster do not have to fill out a reference letter any longer. Your reference goes with your signature on the back.
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If you have questions please call one of us on the advancement committee:

Kenda Hoovler, Frank Bayer, Dan Getway. Tim Radachy

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