

On Increasing Advancement

Scouts BSA: Advancement Update

“On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America will begin admitting girls into Scouts BSA

One of the characteristics of Scouting-for over a hundred years-is that no matter when you join, however long you stay, or the rank you attain, the Scouting experience prepares you for life. And for some, the pinnacle of their Scouting experience is achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The policies of the BSA indicate that, except in extraordinary circumstances, a youth desiring to achieve the rank of Eagle must do so before the youth’s 18th birthday. This will continue to be our policy.

It is in the interests of the entire BSA, and in fact our nation, that all girls who join the BSA in 2019 should have an opportunity to earn their Eagle Scout rank should they diligently and promptly complete all requirements.

Accordingly, after carefully considering recommendations from stakeholders, including feedback from volunteers and professionals at the 2018 Top Hands Meeting, the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America has approved temporary transition rules (<http://t.email.scouting.org/r/?id=h9d68989,62dd242,62dd81e>) regarding extensions for youth over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on February 1, 2019, to complete the requirements for the Eagle Scout award.

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, no exceptions to or waivers of any of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award are permitted under this limited exception, and all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*).”

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FEMALES ENTERING SCOUTS BSA

Temporary Transition Rules

Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18), nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, on February 1, 2019 who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019, may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age.

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2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Extensions must be in writing by submitting the designated form to the National Service Center and the form must be received no later than January 7, 2020. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual's registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019 – both girls and first-time joining boys.

Recognition

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate's award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops, or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting's values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated. It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?

No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.

Q: Can troops, districts, or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?

No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.

Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?

No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

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Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?

No.

Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?

No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.

Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?

No. The Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council; that date will be noted to recognize this inaugural class.

Scoutbook-More than Recording Advancement

Scoutbook will be free starting January 1, 2019

In an effort to drive program consistency and deeper engagement with our youth and leaders, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2019, Scoutbook will be free to all BSA units.

Scoutbook (<https://www.scoutbook.com>) is an online unit management tool that ensures that you never miss a Scouting moment—from tracking advancements to milestone achievements along the Scouting adventure. When units with a current Scoutbook account need to “renew” this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018. When councils with Scoutbook accounts for their units need to “renew” their unit Scoutbook accounts this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018.

Essentially, all current Scoutbook unit accounts have recently been extended--so they will not expire--at no cost to the unit or council. For units currently without a Scoutbook account, they can begin their free Scoutbook unit account on January 1, 2019.

Here are some FAQs about this announcement:

Q. What is the new Scoutbook change?

A. Effective January 1, 2019, there will be no cost for any new Scoutbook accounts.

Effective September 1, 2018, there will be no cost for any renewed Scoutbook accounts.

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