

Occoneechee Council Advancement Committee

November 16, 2011



*** for immediate release ***

Changes to the Eagle Scout procedures

On November 16, 2011, the Occoneechee Council Advancement Committee approved the following changes to Eagle Scout procedures to be effective immediately.

1. The letter from the Eagle Scout service project recipient, confirming that the project was completed to its satisfaction, is no longer required.

This policy was instituted in 1998 at a time when the Eagle Scout Project Workbook did not have a place for the project recipient to sign after the project was completed to signify satisfaction with the finished product and the manner in which the scout conducted himself. Subsequent editions of the Service Project Workbook afford the recipient an opportunity to sign off, or to withhold signing off. Further collection of separate letters is an unnecessary burden that no longer contributed meaningfully to the Eagle board's evaluation of the project.

2. Council policies prohibiting the consideration or approval of specific types of projects, other than those outlined in the current edition of the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook or the 2011 Guide to Advancement, are no longer authorized.

Over the years, a small number of project types had been prohibited as unsuitable for demonstrating the level of planning, developing and leading consistent with the rank of Eagle Scout. It is the committee's belief, supported by the National office, that since we are now reviewing project proposals (not project plans), and since the new workbook specifically addresses what is, or is not, Eagle-worthy service, that we are better served to let an Eagle candidate bring forth a proposal for individual consideration of its merits (i.e. does it make a real impact for the recipient, and does it show Eagle Scout-level planning and leadership). Projects specifically prohibited by National remain prohibited.

3. District policies requiring letters of approval prior to the start of an Eagle Scout Service Project are no longer authorized.

*Districts are no longer approving a service project **plan**; they are approving a service project **proposal**. Requiring specifics such as authorization from a government entity, building permits, tour plans (formerly known as tour permits) is pre-mature at the proposal stage. The district reviewer should certainly share with the candidate that such items may be required as the candidate carries out his project, but not having these items at the time of his district review of his project proposal is perfectly acceptable.*

4. Unit or district policies requiring multiple copies of the Eagle Scout candidate's workbook (and/or application, statement of life purpose, etc...) are prohibited.

*Multiple copies are a burden to the candidate; they increase the mailing costs to the council; they provide little or no benefit to the board of review. The Eagle candidate needs to submit the **original** of each of these items to the Eagle Service Desk. No three-ring binders; no multiple copies. We are not measuring the quantity of paper the candidate can submit; we are measuring the quality of his Scouting experience.*

5. The district volunteer who signs for the district on page 10 of the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal is hereby authorized to approve, upon satisfactory completion, the Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application (page 17 of the newest workbook).

*The 2011 workbook specifically allows the council to delegate this authorization to the district. We believe that the district volunteer who first met with the Eagle candidate, and who already has an understanding of the project, is in the best position to respond promptly and effectively and with the least burden on the scout or the council. **

** This will be reviewed by the Chairmen of the Finance Committee and Advancement Committee to ensure that we have met our obligations to the Eagle candidates and to the council.*