

Advancement Committee of the Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Policy on Eagle Scout Service Project Coaches

Issue

The Advancement Committee, during its January 20, 2016 meeting and during other meetings in 2015, discussed the issue of the Eagle Scout service project coach, including the application, approval and tracking of approved coaches.

Background

In the 2015 Guide to Advancement, the National Council described a new position of Eagle Scout service project coach to assist Boy Scouts with their Eagle Service Project. The Guide to Advancement (2015), Para. 9.0.2.9, initially explains the role of the Eagle Service Project Coach “to provide guidance as the Scout works to fulfill [the service project requirement].” This paragraph continues that it “is for the *council* or *district* to organize a pool of volunteers willing to serve in that capacity, and then designate them to individual Eagle Scout candidates.” (emphasis in original) The paragraph further provides that while it is the Scout’s decision whether to work with an Eagle Scout service project coach, “it is considered best for the council or district to designate [a coach] for every Scout who submits a project proposal for approval.” And the Guide advises the coach to contact the Scout and, even if the Scout suggests he does not need one, “he should be counseled on the value that a coach can add.”

The National Council has not provided a position code for the position of Eagle Scout service project coach, which had made it difficult to track adults who have registered and been approved to serve as coaches.

Policy

Under the authority of The Guide to Advancement (2015), Para. 9.0.2.9, the Denver Area Council Advancement Committee herein authorizes each District Advancement Committee to create its own District policies regarding Eagle Scout service project coaches. Each District Advancement Committee may determine whether to require service project coaches to submit an application to the District, including whether to use the sample application form provided by the National Council or to design a different form for use in its District, and the frequency of submission such application form for renewal (e.g. annually, bi-annually). Each District Advancement Committee is delegated the authority to approve or reject any application for Eagle Scout service project coach. Each District Advancement Committee is delegated the responsibility for keeping a current list of approved Eagle Scout service project coaches in their District.

Each District Advancement Committee is authorized to assign a service project coach to each Scout who has submitted a project proposal for approval. However, it is the Scout’s decision whether to work with a coach.

District policies regarding Eagle Scout service project coach must conform with the Guide to Advancement and any other guidelines published by the National Council or Denver Area Council.

Eagle Service Project Coaches must be “registered with the BSA and be current in BSA Youth Protection Training.” (See Guide to Advancement, Para. 9.0.2.9, p. 71 (2015))

This policy will be in effect until such time that the National Council or Denver Area Council issues guidelines that supersede this policy.

This policy is effective as of January 20, 2016.

Approved by:

Wayne Roszelle (Arapahoe District)

Greg Holt (Frontier District)

Frank Hegner (Centennial District)

Andre Pauka and Kathy Craig (Denver Area Council)

Tom Gould and Rick Baldessari
(Gateway District)