

## Advancement Notes – December 2018

### Your District and Council Advancement Representatives

The Guide to Advancement 2017 definitively prescribes the methods that Eagle boards of review will be conducted. (Section 8.0.3.0.) Within those guidelines latitude is given to a council to determine certain mechanics of board administration. Boards may be conducted at the council level whereby the council assumes responsibility for every element of the board including the composition of board members, location, date and time, and completion of all necessary paperwork. A council may also to enact a policy that places the responsibility of the Eagle board upon the individual unit. The Great Southwest Council has traditionally embraced the philosophy that the Eagle board is the privilege and responsibility of the scout's unit.

The council appreciates that individual units have long standing traditions in the promotion and recognition of a scout's journey. It is the position of the Council Advancement team that the board of review belongs to the unit and the scout, and thus the responsibility for completion of required national standards also fall to the unit and scout. That being said, the GTA 2017 specifically states that "If (a board is) conducted at the unit level, at least one district or council representative, who is not affiliated with the unit, must serve as a member." There has been a bit of confusion and misunderstanding about this requirement recently. Hopefully this will help to clarify the reasons for this requirement.

The mission of the district or council representative (DR or CR) is multifold. It is not however, to run, chair or dictate how, where and with whom a board is conducted. Once the board is convened, the DR or CR assumes the role of just another board member, free to ask relevant scout advancement questions. The purpose of having a presence at a board is:

1. To ensure a meaningful experience for a scout at the life milestone of his or her Eagle board. The experience of board members varies widely from those who have served on numerous boards to someone who has never experienced an Eagle board. One job of the DR is to "fill in the holes" as needed if other members are uncertain of what constitutes a fulfilling experience for the scout.
2. To train future board members and chairpersons how to conduct a board. While actual training must not occur during a live board, the DR offers hints and expectations before and after the board to help members grow and prepare for future boards.
3. To ensure that all the necessary paperwork is completed to National's expectations. The council has delegated the responsibility of such paperwork to the unit advancement authority, however, as a courtesy the DR ensures that it is all present, complete and legible.
- 4.

The responsibilities of the DR and CR are considered so important that the council requires that they be recognized and trained by the district advancement chairman. They **must**

be registered as an adult volunteer and they **must** maintain Youth Protection Training requirements. A unit may not arbitrarily designate any person as a DR or CR for a board without district or council approval. Further, a DR or CR may not represent the council at a board for a unit which he or she is registered as an adult leader.

The bottom line is this policy is in place to assist the units in the extremely important job of ensuring that the Eagle process is correct. Your District and Council Representatives are a resource to make your job as adult mentors easier, meaningful and in compliance with national expectations. We all do what we do with the ultimate goal of serving our youth. Thank each of you for your tireless efforts, cooperation and understanding.