

## **Memorandum from the Minsi Trails Council Advancement Committee 2/25/2021**

### **COVID impacts on Scouts BSA rank advancement**

Unit leaders are asked to determine to what extent scouts seeking to earn ranks including First Class, Star and Life, may have faced challenges in 2020 completing their requirements due to COVID related issues.

As the situation hopefully improves in 2021, scouts can resume progress if they had been delayed. With this in mind a "time check" is suggested:

- determine how much time remains between now and the scout's 18th birthday
- estimate how much work and time is likely required to achieve Life rank and,
- determine if a minimum of 6 months would still remain to achieve Eagle rank.

In instances where this looks tight, leaders are encouraged to actively engage with the scout (and parent/guardian) to highlight this situation and assist in developing a plan. Ideally we want to avoid scouts getting to Life rank only to then realize they have less time than is needed to complete the requirements for Eagle rank and potentially having to rush an extension request.

Last year our council received almost 50 Eagle rank extension requests from Life scouts, resulting from COVID related impacts (normally there are only a few requests each year). It is hoped that the need for any COVID related extension requests in 2021 will be few, especially if we help scouts look forward and determine where they stand and what is left to do in the time remaining before their 18th birthdays. For those scouts that wish to earn Eagle, if you know or suspect they have been delayed please sit down with them to try to map out a recovery plan.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting and for your assistance.