

Tonkawa Advancement Changes

For those of you that were not at the last Roundtable, Mike Olsen has been promoted to District Chairman and asked me to replace him as the District Advancement Chair. Big shoes to fill but it was my honor to accept and I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year. In order to keep everyone on the same page, I would like to communicate a couple of tweaks as to how I and my Committee plan to handle the Boards and Project Reviews. Nothing major, but a few changes.

The email address to begin the process is tonkawaadvancements@gmail.com. Be aware that after a Scout makes contact via email, I will probably reply and ask him to call me to set up his Board. I am a firm believer that a Scout needs the interaction of talking to someone over the phone to make a request of this nature as opposed to an impersonal reply via email. This is probably a skill that he will use later in life.

During that call I will provide him with the address for letters of reference and what else he needs to bring/do to schedule his BOR. I will also let him know what time slots are available and have him choose one. I would normally like for the Scout to call at least 10-14 days before we schedule a BOR as his letters of reference will need time to be sent and received.

I plan to hold the Boards at the First Presbyterian Church at 1002 Fox Ave, Lewisville on the 2nd Tuesday and the 4th Thursday of each month. I plan to have 2 slots available each of those nights starting at 7:15 for Boards and/or Project Reviews as needed. I can add other nights if necessary, but plan to stick to these 2 nights as much as possible. For those of you older Scouters, this is where Troop 437 meets and where we used to hold the District Roundtable until 2-3 years ago. It is on the SW corner of Fox and Edmonds.

As in the past, we will continue to do Project Reviews and, if possible, Boards starting at 7:30 during Roundtable. As with previous chairs, it is anticipated that Scouts will schedule these and not just show up. There may not be enough slots. Again start with tonkawaadvancements@gmail.com.

As always, we will work with any Scouts under a time constraint, but really would like to use these 3 nights as much as possible.

The last tweak concerns the make-up of the Boards. I would like to ask that the BOR be made up of Scouters that are not in the same Troop as the candidate. I, and many others, believe that this is how an Eagle BOR should be conducted, with a panel of Scouters unfamiliar to the Scout. Therefore, I am asking all of the Troops to commit to serving on at least one BOR and/or Project Review each 6 months. There are a couple of reasons for this. 1. We are preparing boys for life's real lessons and what better way than to have him go to his first, in most cases, interview than as an Eagle Scout Candidate. 2. It allows us to learn from and see what other Troops are doing. We might pick up something good. To that end, look for me to send requests for Board members

Thanks in advance for helping these Scouts on their road to Eagle and see you at Roundtable.

Larry W. Fleitman
Tonkawa Advancement Chair
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