



GUIDELINES AND HELPFUL HINTS FOR EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATES

Prepared by the
**Goose Creek District
Committee on Advancement**

**National Capital Area Council
Boy Scouts of America**

*Second Revision
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This is an unofficial publication. It is intended to supplement official information published by the Boy Scouts of America. Any conflict between information in this and in official publications of the Boy Scouts of America should be resolved in favor of the official publications.

Preface

This booklet is designed specifically to provide supplementary guidance and helpful hints to Life Scouts working towards Eagle Scout Rank. However, it also contains instructions adult leaders should follow with regard to Eagle Boards of Review.

Both Scouts and adult leaders are invited to offer suggestions for improving these guidelines. Please contact the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee Chairperson.

The Second Revision updates National Council guidance regarding Eagle Boards of Reviews to be conducted more than three months after a candidate's 18th birthday. Additionally, minor textual changes have been made. This document has been paginated so that it can be printed on both sides of paper in book form with even numbered pages on the right side and odd numbered pages on the left side.

This document, along with the forms referenced and included herein, is part of a CD provided to Scout and Venturing units. The CD also includes an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook and Eagle Scout Rank Application which may be completed by filling in the blanks on your computer. These resources are available also from the Goose Creek District website (www.goosecreekdistrict.org, under Advancement) Ask your unit leader for a copy of the CD.

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Section 1 – Introduction



CONGRATULATIONS for earning Life Scout Rank! Look around your Troop – not a lot of heart-shaped badges to be seen, are there? At each stop on Scouting's Advancement Trail, fewer and fewer Scouts remain from the group you started with as a Tenderfoot Scout. You have traveled high on Scouting's Trail to Eagle. You are just one step away from the highest and most prestigious rank in Scouting, Eagle Scout.

Why should you go on to Eagle? As Sir Edmund Hillary replied when asked why he climbed Mt. Everest, "Because it's there!" You are so close now that not going on will be the cause of regret in the future. The main reason to continue is for your own personal sense of meeting an enormous challenge – completing the requirements that few earn. Achieving Eagle Scout Rank is a symbol of achievement recognized throughout the country. Having earned the rank may make a difference in getting into the college you want. Many Eagle Scouts are hired for jobs over others on the sole basis of their achievement. Being an Eagle Scout puts you into the same company as many astronauts, scientists, military leaders, politicians, and even one United States President.

You MUST complete all 6 requirements for the rank PRIOR to your 18th birthday! The Board of Review may be conducted after your birthday. Be familiar with the requirements:

Requirement 1: Be active in your unit for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout (the date of your Life Board of Review).

Requirement 2: Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life, as evidenced by character recommendations.

Requirement 3: Earn a total of 12 required and 9 elective merit badges.

Requirement 4: Serve actively for a period of six months in one or more positions of responsibility in your unit after achieving Life Scout Rank. (Specific eligible positions of responsibility are listed on the Eagle Scout Rank application.)

Requirement 5: While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community.

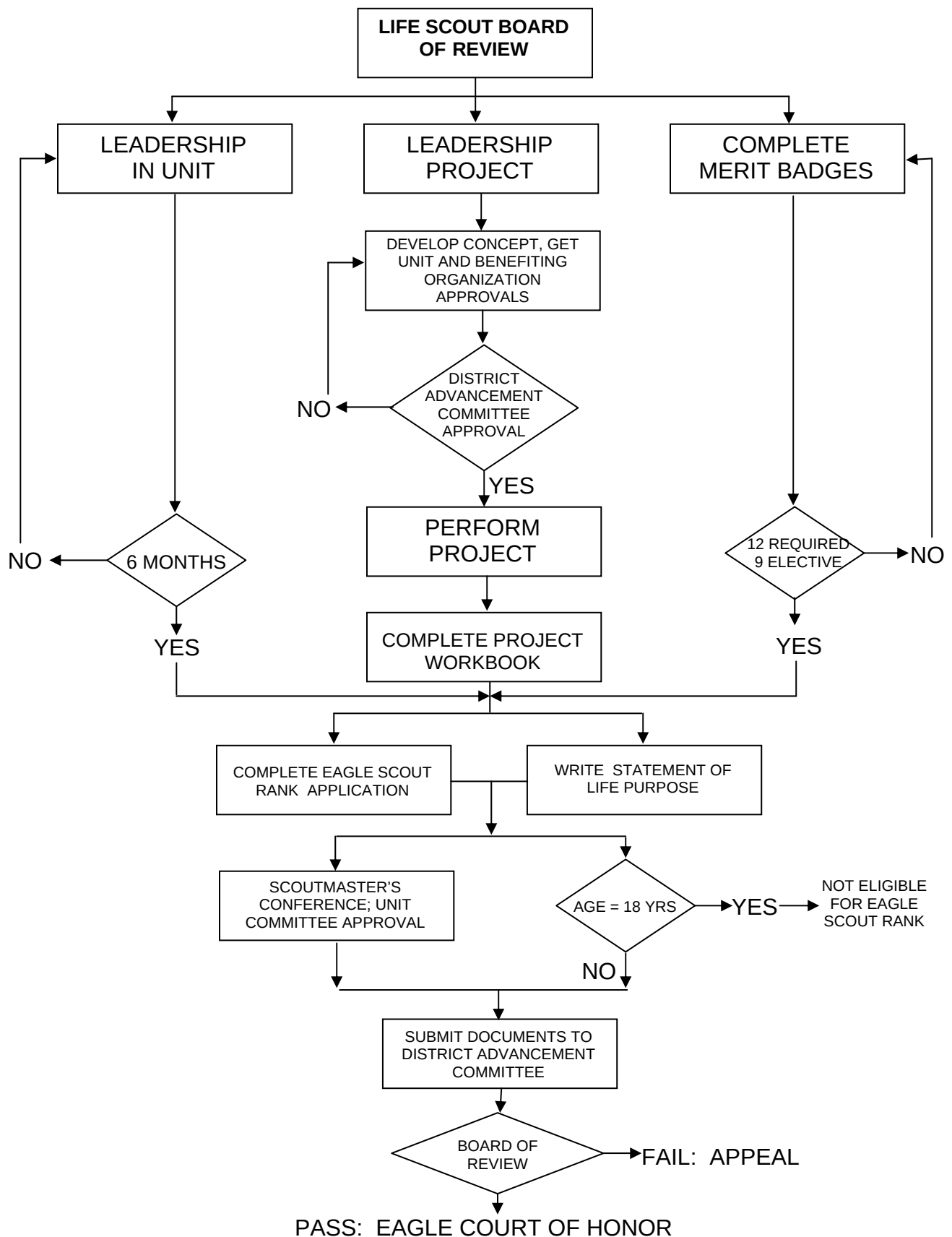
Requirement 6: Prepare a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference with your unit leader.

The following page shows the process for completing the requirements to earn Eagle Scout Rank. You can see that it basically is a three-track process. Now that you successfully completed the Life Scout Board of Review, you may begin work on any or all of the tracks, including the Leadership Service Project. Therefore, it is possible for you to complete all requirements for Eagle Scout in just six months from your Life Scout Board of Review. (NOTE: if there are less than six months from the date of your Life Scout Board of Review until your 18th birthday, you are not eligible for Eagle Scout Rank!)

More specific hints and guidelines are discussed in the sections following. Section 2 specifically addresses the Leadership Service Project. Section 3 discusses the other five requirements. Section 4 addresses the steps you must follow prior to the Board of Review. It also describes responsibilities of your unit's adult leadership. Should the Board not pass your application, the appeal process is described. Section 5 includes some comments on the Eagle Court of Honor. Section 6 includes other resources and references, and a number of checklists.

Good Luck on your climb to Eagle!

Scouts with disabilities may earn Eagle Scout Rank and may work on achieving the rank after age 18. If you have a permanent physical or mental disability, you and your parents should contact the District Advancement Committee Chairman early in the process to discuss your situation and the procedures that are applicable.



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Section 2 – The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project puts you in a different role than when you performed service projects for Star and Life Scout ranks. In those, you were the follower. The Eagle Scout project requires YOU to be the leader! As a Life Scout, you must plan, develop, and provide leadership to others in a service project. The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project provides the opportunity for you to demonstrate the leadership skills you learned so far in Scouting. You must plan the work, organize the personnel needed, and direct the project to its completion.

There are specific limitations imposed on the project you select. It cannot

- Be a job or service normally rendered as routine labor;
- Be performed for a business or individual;
- Be of a commercial nature;
- Be a fund-raiser (although fund-raising is permitted for securing materials or supplies needed to carry out your project);
- Be shared by any other Scout as an Eagle project;
- Be of benefit to your Scout unit, the NCAC, or any other BSA activity.

The project you choose MUST be of REAL VALUE benefiting the environment, your community, or a religious group, school, or other worthy group.

You need to get a copy of the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook*, Number 18-927A, before you begin planning. You may obtain this either by downloading from the National Council web site (www.scouting.org) -- a hotlink exists from the Goose Creek District web site – or from the CD ROM disk provided to your unit leaders. This workbook must be used in the completion of this requirement.

Where do you get ideas for a project? Start by talking with people you know – your parents, your Scout leaders, your church and school leaders. You can search through listings of projects performed by other Scouts, such as attached to this section. Section Six of this pamphlet lists web sites focused on service projects. Loudoun County Parks and Recreation office has benefited from the work many Life Scouts have provided as Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects. Select a project that

- Is interesting to you;
- Challenging to you;
- Provides an opportunity for leadership – not just planning and organizing, but also requires you to direct others.

Once you believe you have an idea for a project, contact the organization that will benefit from it. The benefiting organization may have some other ideas or modifications to consider. Once you come to an agreement with the benefiting organization, you can start

completing your plan and incorporating it into the project workbook. (See checklist on page 23 before starting the workbook.)

Your plan should be detailed enough that anyone else looking at it will understand completely what needs to be done to complete the job. A bill of materials needs to be listed. The design of the project and any construction should be clearly drawn out. Photos of the site help describe the task to be done. The workbook documentation should be clear as to

- Who will benefit from the project?
- How will they benefit?
- What official from the benefiting group will be contacted for guidance in planning the project?
- How many people will be recruited to help carry out the project?
- How many total service hours do you estimate are required to fulfill this project?

There are no specific requirements about how big a project is required. However, the District Advancement Committee does have several concerns about the types of projects to be accomplished as Eagle Leadership Service Projects.

- First, the project effort should be appropriate to a youth project. Proposed construction of large sheds or garages will be carefully reviewed by the District as perhaps being beyond scope of an Eagle project.
- Second, safety will always be examined in approving projects. If a proposed project is to construct a large bridge for a park, especially one that will be used by motorized vehicles of any size, a structural engineer must review the plans to make certain the design is safe. Such a project also is questionable as to be out of scope for a youth project.
- Third, projects to conduct a collection drive, such as for clothing or eyeglasses, or any other type of collection drive should be tied to a goal to be achieved, such as XX pounds of clothes, or YY items of whatever is to be collected. ***Satisfactory completion of such a project may require repeated collection drives until the agreed upon metric is achieved.*** These metrics must be discussed with and agreed upon by the benefiting organization. However, the District Advancement Committee representative reserves the right to raise the goal so the project will be of significance and relative to other Eagle Scout Rank Leadership Service Projects.
- Fourth, the District Advancement Committee has serious reservations about collection drives related to health products, such as blood drives. Health-related drives are stringently controlled by the Food and Drug Agency and the collection service provider. Very little leeway is allowed. The American Red Cross has even packaged a collection drive kit for Scout units to follow. It is difficult for an individual to display the type of leadership skills this Eagle Scout Rank requirement is seeking. Therefore, a Scout, his parents, and his unit advisor need to discuss the idea of this type of project carefully. The District Advancement

Committee must see convincing evidence that the approach proposed can provide evidence of an individual to display **significant** leadership called for the Eagle Scout Rank.

There should be no “out of pocket” expenses by anyone associated with your project. If the materials are not to be provided by the benefiting organization, obtain guidance and approval from your unit leader to contact merchants for donation of needed materials. Or, organize a fundraiser to pay for your project’s materials.

After you have completed all the planning and documented it in the project workbook, start obtaining approvals. You need signatures from each of the following **BEFORE** you start work on the project:

- The benefiting organization.
- Your unit leader (Scoutmaster, Team Coach, Crew Advisor).
- Your unit committee chairperson.
- A member of the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee. This signature must be last in order. ***Your project MAY NOT begin prior to approval by this representative!*** The District Committee member, using the checklist shown on page 23, will review the project. He/she may require you to rewrite all or portions of the workbook plan prior to beginning the project.

If a significant change is necessary after the project is approved, a revised proposal must be submitted for approval through the District Advancement Committee representative. What constitutes a significant change is hard to define. If in doubt, contact the District representative who signed the original proposal for a definitive answer.

The next step is to carry out the project. Your approved plan is the guide to follow in carrying out your project. Implement the schedule you developed. Get the materials and tools needed. Arrange transportation, food, photographer, and any other support people. Don’t forget that leadership includes DELEGATING activities to your unit’s youth and adult leadership. Pay attention to weather forecasts as you approach the day of the project (you should always plan for a rain date follow up). Make sure you record time spent by all involved in planning and carrying out your project.

SAFETY! Always plan for safe operations. Have first aid kits on site. Assign power tools to be used only by adults. Make sure safety guards are at front and back of vehicles used at the work site. Before work at the site, conduct a safety lecture to all who will be at the site.

Remember: your job is not to DO. Your job is to direct – to instruct and organize your participants. Lead the project. Observe the total work site. Correct if necessary. Address problems as they arise promptly. Take notes. Record time spent by each participant.

Document your completed project in the section titled “Carrying out the Project” in sufficient detail to explain all aspects of your activity. Additional pages may be inserted in the workbook if needed. Maps, diagrams, and photographs are helpful supplements.

The more details you provide, the fewer others will question. Be aware that the Eagle Board of Review, which must be satisfied that the project was of real value and that you demonstrated leadership in its accomplishment, will evaluate the total process of the project. Your write-up should identify problems, how you overcame them, and the lessons you learned from the project. Your emphasis should be in explaining how you used your leadership skills to get the service job done.

You must take the completed workbook to the benefiting organization and your unit leader for approval.

Examples of Past Eagle Projects

- ◆ **Voting Booths:** I made three voting booths for our town hall in Topsham, Vermont. One of them was a booth for handicapped voters.
- ◆ **Youth Protection and Identification Program:** I provided parents and children with information to prevent abductions. I also provided a place for parents to fingerprint and video tape their child in case they ever need to file a missing child report.
- ◆ **Community Bicycle Registration:** The number of bicycle thefts in our area was rising, so I worked with the Police to develop a card file where people could register their bikes. For three Saturdays we put on a bike safety and registration fair.
- ◆ **Built a Playground:** There is a home for orphans in our neighborhood. I organized a construction project and built a playground in their backyard for the kids.
- ◆ **Pond Clean Up:** My town has a neat park where the kids play in the ponds. The ponds were really dirty and had a lot of garbage in them, so I arranged a pond cleanup project. We hauled all of the trash out and planted grass and bushes to stop the erosion.
- ◆ **Tiger Shelter at Wildlife Preserve:** The tiger shelters at a local animal preserve were falling apart, so I organized a project to rebuild the shelters over the cages!
- ◆ **Picnic Tables for Park:** We built new picnic tables for the park's pavilions.
- ◆ **Leadership Training Program:** My school district has a neat leadership-training program, so I helped them organize and train the staff members for a weeklong retreat for the 6th graders.
- ◆ **Bicycle Racks for Baseball Complex:** The grass was torn up at our baseball diamond because kids kept dumping their bikes on the ground. I got a construction company to donate the materials, and built a cement bike rack on the edge of the field.
- ◆ **Restore Storage Shed at Neighborhood Park:** The shed at our neighborhood park had been ignored for a long time. I got our troop and neighborhood together to repair it.

- ◆ **Cemetery Directory:** I catalogued all of the gravestones in our city cemetery. Then I worked with the troop to put together a cemetery kiosk where visitors could look at a large map and find the graves they wanted to visit.
- ◆ **Repainted Bleachers:** Our baseball park was in pretty sad shape, so my project was to strip the old paint away and then repaint four sets of bleachers and the four-team dugouts.
- ◆ **Toy Drive:** For Christmas, I organized a toy drive with a thrift store in town. All the toys were donated to foster homes and orphanages.
- ◆ **Flag Pole:** Our school's flagpole was really old, so I got a company to donate the cement and pole for a new one. My troop helped put it in.
- ◆ **Cut Down Trees for Firewood:** There was an old orchard in my neighborhood. I organized my troop to go and cut down the dead trees, and we delivered the wood to widows for firewood.
- ◆ **Flood Sand Bags:** In spring the river near our town flooded. I organized groups to fill sand bags to protect the buildings along the river.
- ◆ **Area Trail Maintenance:** A public trail was in need of some improvements so I put in two grade-level steps to prevent erosion. I also cleaned the trail and leveled it in places.
- ◆ **A "Big Toy" for the pre-schoolers at our sponsoring organization:** This project was a lot of work. The Eagle spent many hours planning and getting the materials together. He copied a design at another church that was what the sponsor wanted. It took one long afternoon to cut and sand all the wood (250 pieces) and two days to build it. We routed in the Eagle's name and our troop number on one of the boards. The kids who use it just love it.
- ◆ **Collected and repaired used toys:** The toys were given to a home for children with disabilities.
- ◆ **Prepared plans for a footbridge on a trail in a national forest:** Worked with rangers to learn the skills necessary to build the structure, gathered materials and tools, and then directed a Scout work group to do the construction.

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Section 3 – Other Requirements for Eagle Scout Rank

The other two tracks on the Eagle Trail described in the process chart in Section 1 are equally important as is the Leadership Service Project.

Term of Service (Requirement 1). You must serve at least 6 months active membership in a unit since your Life Scout Board of Review date. There may be reasons why you must drop out of a unit, such as moving from one locality to another. The time you dropped out of a Scout unit is not counted as part of the 6 months. Count the time spent in grade as a Life Scout before you had to drop out and continue counting from the time you resume Scouting. (“Unit” means Troop, Team, Crew, or Ship and service term may include membership in a combination of unit types.)

Demonstrate Scout Spirit (Requirement 2). Demonstration that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life is attested by recommendations on your behalf. You may list individuals on your Eagle Scout Rank Application who know you personally to make recommendations. Note: if you do not have a religious leader, your parents’ names must be inserted in the row for a Religious reference, in addition to the row above it.

Merit Badges (Requirement 3). As a Life Scout, you already earned at least 11 merit badges of the 21 needed for Eagle, and 7 of the 11 are required for Eagle out of the total of 12 required merit badges. You are already over halfway to the number needed for Eagle Scout Rank! Plan your route carefully. Some of the required badges require a stated length of time to complete. If you are now 17 years of age, you need to start those in time to complete the time requirement for the badge before you turn 18! Don’t wait until the last month before your 18th birthday to finish one or two or more merit badges, along with your Eagle Leadership Service Project. Your merit badge counselors will not “cut you slack” in meeting the badge requirements just because you are approaching your 18th birthday.

Position of Responsibility (Requirement 4). You also must serve at least 6 months in one or more positions of responsibility within your unit after achieving Life Scout Rank. These positions for all types of Scout units are listed on the second page of the Eagle Scout Rank Application. These positions offer you opportunities to grow in your leadership abilities – a key component of an Eagle Scout.

Statement of Life Purpose and Scoutmaster Conference (Requirement 6). You must prepare and attach to the Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose. It also must list positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service. You should approach this task as you would a school writing assignment: use correct grammar, check spelling, and put in some thought to the structure and content of the statement. Of

course, it will be evaluated appropriate to your age and level of schooling (more will be expected of a 17-year old high school senior than of a younger Scout).

The second portion of this requirement is to participate in a Scoutmaster's conference with your unit leader. This conference will be more extensive than those you had for earlier ranks. You will probably reflect over your entire Scouting career with your Scoutmaster. You will be reminded that completing Scouting's highest rank is not the end of your involvement with Scouting. Many people have contributed to your achieving Eagle. Your Scoutmaster will remind you that you have a debt to repay through continued leadership in your unit, helping younger Scouts on the Trail to Eagle. Lastly, your Scoutmaster will discuss the process of the Eagle Board of Review, a topic discussed in the next Section.

All of the requirements above must be completed before you reach your 18th birthday!

If you foresee that you will be unable to complete the requirements for the Eagle rank prior to your 18th birthday, you may file a petition in writing with the National Boy Scout Committee through the Goose Creek District and the NCAC for special permission to continue to work toward the award after reaching age 18. The petition must show good and sufficient evidence and detail the extenuating circumstances that prevented you from completing the requirements prior to your 18th birthday. **Extenuating circumstances are defined as conditions or situations that are totally beyond your control!** Contact the District Advancement Committee Chairperson for further information and guidance.

A Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or male Venturer with a disability may work toward rank advancement after he is 18 years old.

Section 4 – The Eagle Scout Rank Board of Review

You've finished all the requirements for Eagle Scout. Now you must prepare for the Board of Review. There are several distinct steps in this phase, but YOU are only responsible for one step: putting together your application and supporting documentation.

Procedures You Must Complete Prior to the Board of Review. You must fill out completely and accurately the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The current and correct form is number 58-728 and is dated 2008 or later (copy included following page 25). You can get a hardcopy of the form from your unit leader or you may use the form enclosed (printing it in color is required and must be on both sides of one sheet of paper). Following are guidelines to observe while completing the application:

1. Print in black ink or type all information you put on the application. If you print, use block characters and make sure each letter is legible and distinct.
2. All dates must show month, day, and year. For example, the date July 8, 1970 should be inserted as 07 (for July), 08 (for day), and 70 (for year).
3. At the top left corner of the form is a place to enter your PID (personal identity) number. You will find this number on your registration card, your unit chartering roster, or from NCAC Scout Headquarters. This number must be included.
4. Make sure you spell your full name correctly and completely (this is the name that will be on your Eagle certificate).
5. Fill out your address completely. Only the state may be abbreviated. Make sure you clearly indicate your unit type (Troop, Team, Crew, or Ship) and its number.
6. The dates you use when asked are very important. The District Advancement Committee will check your application against records your unit submitted to Council Headquarters. The following are sources for completing the top part of your application:
 - Unit computerized records (such as TroopMaster©).
 - Membership cards.
 - Transfer records from a previous unit.
 - Advancement Reports (BSA form #34403A).
7. In completing Requirement 2, list of references, you must have an entry for the row "Religious" leader. If you have no religious leader, this entry must be your parent(s). If you do not have an employer reference, enter "N/A" in this line for "not applicable."
8. In Requirement 3, list of merit badges, enter the dates as shown on either your unit's computerized records or on the merit badge blue card as the completion date (include the computerized listing or photocopies of the merit badge cards with your application). For badges 6 and 9 cross out inapplicable badges so that the badge you are claiming is clearly shown. The consistency of dates for merit badge completion is a common problem for Eagle Scout Rank applications. In addition to the sources stated in item 5 above, valid sources are

- Blue merit badge application cards signed by the merit badge counselor. The date a merit badge is earned is the date the Merit Badge Counselor signs the blue merit badge card.
 - Rank requirements signed in the Scout's *Boy Scout Handbook*.
 - Advancement and merit badge recognition cards (wallet certificates) presented at Courts of Honor.
9. After you complete Requirement 6, you must certify correctness of the application by signing the appropriate blank on the second page. Obtain signatures from the unit leader and the unit committee chairman.

Assemble the following materials in neat order and place them in a three-ring binder with clear plastic document sleeves in the following order:

- 1) Eagle Scout Rank Application.
- 2) Documentation for service dates, rank achievement, and merit badges, as described earlier in this section.
- 3) Your current personal Boy Scout registration card. If you cannot find your card, the chairman of the Eagle Board of Review must show the District Advancement Committee member attending the Board of Review your unit's current rechartering roster, which includes your name before the Board of Review may begin.
- 4) Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (Requirement 5). It should have all signatures of approving authorities. Include all plans prepared for the project and any modifications that were necessary. Before and after photographs will assist the Board of Review in evaluating your activity.
- 5) Statement of your ambitions and life purpose (Requirement 6).

You now are ready to submit your documentation to the District Advancement Committee for review as the representative authorized to sign for "BSA LOCAL COUNCIL CERTIFICATION". The person to contact first is the member of the District Advancement Committee who approved your Eagle Leadership Service Project. If you have difficulties making contact, call the chairperson of the District Advancement Committee.

DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO NCAC HEADQUARTERS FOR CERTIFICATION. THIS WILL ONLY DELAY THE PROCESSING SINCE NCAC WILL REFER IT TO THE DISTRICT FOR REVIEW.

These documents do not have to be submitted for review before your 18th birthday.

The materials will be reviewed for accuracy, completeness, and neatness. The form shown on page 29, "Eagle Scout Rank Application Checklist", will be used by the reviewer and attached to your materials when submitted to the Board of Review. The reviewer will contact you if there is any question or need for correction. The reviewer

normally will sit on your Board of Review and will retain these materials until the Board meets.

Your Board of Review may be conducted up to three months after your 18th birthday with no further action on your part. However, between three and six months after your 18th birthday, an adult leader must attach to the Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement explaining the reason for the delay and request approval for a Board of Review through the District Advancement Committee to the NCAC. An example of a satisfactory reason would be due to the candidate going off to college and who could not return home until the end of the semester. ***Upon approval***, a Board of Review may be conducted up to six months after the 18th birthday. After six months have passed since your 18th birthday, a Board of Review may not be conducted until after you have petitioned the National Boy Scout Committee in Irving, Texas, for an extension of time. The petition must be accompanied with a copy of the Eagle Scout Rank Application. All petitions must be through the District Advancement Committee and the local Scout Council. If the National Boy Scout Committee approves the petition, a Board of Review must be conducted promptly. Approvals are not automatic!

<u>YOU</u> ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING THESE DEADLINES!
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Procedures Your Unit Leaders Must Follow for the Eagle Board of Review.

Goose Creek District places the Eagle Scout Board of Review in the hands of the Scout's unit. However, the members of the District Advancement Committee will assist units in setting up and conducting Boards of Review. The following activities are the responsibility of adult leaders and should ***never*** be left to the Eagle Candidate to oversee or complete.

1. Reviewing the Eagle Scout Rank Application and supporting materials prior to submission by the candidate to the District Advancement Committee. Assist the Scout in compiling documentation of rank achievements and merit badges earned.
2. Obtaining letters of reference. These usually are the individuals named in Requirement 2 on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The candidate should have contacted those individuals before including their names on the application. The Scout should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as references and the Board of Review. The originator should mail references to the Unit Committee Chairman or his adult representative. An example of a useful form to request references is included at page 31.
3. The unit committee chairman or the unit advancement committee chair is responsible for assembling the board. The Eagle Candidate ***should not*** be the determining authority for the Board's composition. Following are the National Council guidelines regarding the Eagle Scout Award Board of Review:

- It must be composed of at least three and not more than six members, one of whom must be a representative from the District Committee on Advancement.
 - It may NOT include the unit Scoutmaster or any registered unit Assistant Scoutmasters.
 - It may NOT include any relatives of the Eagle Candidate.
 - Each member must be 21 years of age or older.
 - It may include individuals not associated with Scouting but who are leaders in the community, the sponsoring institution, businesses, or education. These individuals must have an understanding of the importance and purpose of the Eagle Board of Review.
4. The unit committee chairperson shall establish a date for the Eagle Board to meet, based on the availability of the participants. This date must be after the District Advancement Committee member has approved the documentation submitted by the Eagle candidate. (In situations where the District Advancement Committee member who had been working with the Scout cannot attend the Board of Review, contact the chairperson of the District Advancement Committee to see if a substitute may be arranged.) The Board should assemble 30 minutes prior to when the Scout will appear before it.
 5. One member of the Board shall be designated in advance as its chair. Normally this is not the member of the District Advancement Committee, although there is no rule for such exclusion. (In fact, for situations in which there are questions in advance about the outcome of the Board's decision, it may be advisable for the unit to designate the member of the District Advancement Committee as the Board's chair.)
 6. The Board conducts its review of the candidate:
 - The candidate's unit leader introduces him to the board members. The unit leader may remain in the room, but does not participate in the board activities. The unit leader may be called on to clarify a point in question but does not speak unless requested by the board.
 - There is no set of questions that an Eagle candidate should be asked (although examples for consideration are included on page 33).
 - Because of the importance of the Eagle Leadership Service Project, the Board should review the project. Questions that may be addressed are:
 - Did the candidate demonstrate leadership of others?
 - Did he indeed direct the project rather than do all the work himself?
 - Was the project of real value to the benefiting organization?
 - Did the project follow the approved plan as signed by the District Advancement Committee member, or were unapproved modifications needed to bring it to its completion?
 - The Board is to review the candidate on the overall aspect of the candidate's Scouting experience. It is not to review the candidate on Scout skills. It should not be an interrogation. The Board

should be assured of the candidate's current participation in the Scouting program. This is the highest award that a Scout may achieve – one that is continually associated with an individual throughout his lifetime – so, consequentially, a thorough discussion of his successes and experiences in Scouting should be considered. The Board must be assured that the candidate fulfills the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law and is representative of the overall good character associated with Scouting.

The charter of the Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. It is part of the Scout Oath and is the 12th point of the Scout Law. Therefore, in demonstration of Scout Spirit, the Eagle Board of Review must be confident that the candidate observes this facet of Scouting and recognizes a superior being in the universe.

- After the review (which should be no longer than 30 minutes), the candidate and the unit leader leave the room while the board members discuss the acceptability of the candidate as an Eagle Scout.
- ***The decision to award the candidate the rank of Eagle Scout must be unanimous!***
- The candidate is recalled and informed of the decision.

7. If the Board **approves** the award of Eagle Scout Rank:

- The Board chair and the District Advancement Committee member sign and date the Eagle Scout Rank Application in the section named "ACTIONS BY EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW."
- An Advancement Form, No. #34403A, is completed by the Board Chairperson with only one entry, the Eagle Scout. The form is to be signed by all members of the Board, including the District Advancement Committee member.
- The completed Eagle Scout Rank Application, the Eagle Leadership Service Project Workbook, the Advancement Form, a copy of the TroopMaster© printout or photocopies of the merit badge cards, and the statement of ambitions and life goals are sent to the NCAC headquarters for further processing and forwarding to National Council (it is recommended copies of all materials be retained by the unit).
- The Board Chair furthermore is to mail a copy of both sides of the completed Eagle Scout Rank Application and the Advancement Form to the Chairperson of the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee. A checklist for these actions is at page 35.
- The written references are to be destroyed by the Board Chair.

8. If the Board **does not approve** the award of Eagle Scout Rank:

- The Board orally shall inform the Scout as to the reasons why he is denied the rank at this time. A discussion with him should be held as to how he may meet the requirements within a given period.
- The Board Chair shall promptly follow-up with a written letter to the Scout confirming the Board's decision and the agreements reached with him on the action(s) necessary for advancement. The letter will include the name of the District Advancement Committee Chairperson in case the Scout wishes to start a formal appeal process. Copies of this letter are to be sent to the District Key 3 and to the District Advancement Committee Chairperson.
- The Unit shall retain all documentation, including the confidential letters of reference until such time as the issue is resolved.

APPEALS. Two sets of circumstances may lead to the appeal of a decision.

First, if the unit leader or unit committee does not recommend the Scout for a board of review, or if the unit leader or unit committee does not sign the Eagle Scout Rank application, the Scout or other interested party may appeal the decision to the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee.

Second, if the Eagle Board of Review does not recommend the applicant for advancement to Eagle Scout Rank, the decision may be appealed to the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee. The Scout, his unit leader, or his parents may appeal the decision. With all appeal applications, the final decision rests with the National Boy Scout Committee. In ascending order, levels of appeal are the unit, Goose Creek District, the National Capital Area Council, and the National Boy Scout Committee.

On receipt of an appeal, the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee will provide a prompt review to determine the facts. All parties must be interviewed. A written report with all details must be prepared for forwarding to the next higher level. A copy of the Scout's Eagle Scout Rank Application must be included when petitioning the National Boy Scout Committee.

Section 5 – Eagle Court of Honor

When a Scout earns the Eagle Scout Rank, he deserves special recognition. The Eagle ceremony may not be conducted until the National Council in Irving, Texas, has approved the action of the Eagle Board of Review. (There may be circumstances which the Scout's family needs to expedite the processing of the paperwork to be able to have a Court of Honor by a certain near date. By prepaying for round-trip overnight express letter package delivery, the processing can be expedited. Contact NCAC Headquarters, 301-214-9155, for details.)

There are different views as to the conduct of Eagle Courts of Honor. The May-June 2003 issue of *Scouting* magazine, "Front Line Stuff", discussed the topic of whether Eagle Scout courts of honor should be individual or group. This article is reprinted in Section 6, starting on page 35.

Scouts and parents should understand this one fact: this is YOUR award and ceremony. Your views deserve to be honored. If you wish to participate in a group ceremony with your peers, then by all means do so. But, if you want single recognition, make sure your unit adult leaders know your desires.

There are a number of resources available for planning and conducting appropriate Eagle Scout Rank Courts of Honor. Start with *Troop Program Resources*, publication number 33588.

A number of special recognitions are available to a new Eagle Scout for presentation at his Court of Honor.

- Commendation letters may be requested from dignitaries who are loyal to the principles of Scouting. The website provided by EagleScout.org lists many of them, along with sample request formats. It is recommended that requests be made only to those who may have a special meaning to the Scout being honored. Refer to <http://www.eaglescout.org/finale/coh/invite.html#Eagle%20Commendation%20Letters>.
- All of the military services have special recognitions for new Eagle Scouts. See these and others on this web site: <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/eagle/specialrecs.asp>

Other resources are listed in Section 6.

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Section 6 – Other Resources and References

World Wide Web Resources

General Information

<http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx>
<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/eagle.asp>

Eagle Projects

<http://www.eaglescout.org/>
http://www.buckskin.org/Resources/Boy_Scouts/Eagle_Scout_Project_Ideas.htm

Eagle Award Ceremonies

<http://www.eaglescout.org/finale/coh/coh.html>
<http://www.eaglebook.com/ecoh.htm>

“Eagle Court of Honor Handbook” – available on the CD distributed to units

Scholarships for Eagles

<http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/scholarships.aspx>

Forms and Guides

References were made in the text to a number of forms and guides. These are included in the following pages for your assistance. They also are on a CD made available to Troops, Varsity and Venturing units. Additionally, most are located on the Goose Creek District website.

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Checklist for Eagle Scout Project Approval

Scout's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Unit #: _____ Date: ____/____/____

District Advancement Committee Member: _____

Preliminary: These MUST be completed prior to beginning the District Project Review.

- ☐ Scout dressed in appropriate uniform?
- ☐ Using Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (*Life to Eagle Packet, #18-927*)
- ☐ Signature of representative from organization to benefit? (*Workbook page 2*)
- ☐ Signature of Scoutmaster or Unit Eagle Coordinator? (*Workbook page 3*)
- ☐ Signature of Unit Committee representative? (*Workbook page 3*)

Project Description:

- ☐ Complete description of the project?
- ☐ Does the group to benefit qualify? Who will indirectly benefit? _____
- ☐ Complete description of benefit provided to the group identified?

Planning Details:

- ☐ Complete description of the present conditions? (*Pictures, maps, drawings, or sketches as appropriate*)
- ☐ Methods used to complete the project:
 - ☐ How will the project work be organized?
 - ☐ How will the Scout demonstrate leadership?
- ☐ Materials required for the project:
 - ☐ Complete list of necessary materials? (*Breakdown of the materials and amount of each needed*)
 - ☐ Where will the Scout secure the materials? (*Retail outlets, organizations, benefiting group, etc.*)
 - ☐ How much will the materials cost?
 - ☐ How will funding to pay for the materials be secured? (*Fundraiser, donations, benefiting group, etc.*)
- ☐ Resources required for the project:
 - ☐ Complete list of all the resources necessary? (*Tools, electricity, transportation, etc.*)
 - ☐ Where will the Scout secure the resources? (*Provided by self, friends, Scout unit, benefiting group, etc.*)
- ☐ Project helpers (people) necessary to complete the project:
 - ☐ List of the number of people needed and when? (*Schedule of personnel requirements based on project workload*)
 - ☐ Where does the Scout plan to get the people? (*Scout unit, friends, schoolmates, family, etc.*)
- ☐ Time schedule:
 - ☐ Has the Scout set dates for working on the project, and are these dates realistic?
 - ☐ What are the contingency plans in case the dates don't work out? (*Inclement weather, missing materials, etc.*)
- ☐ Safety considerations:
 - ☐ Hazards involving the worksite, materials, tools, and weather? (*Including sun/rain protection, power tools*)
 - ☐ Availability of first aid supplies and access to emergency services?
 - ☐ Who will provide water and food? (*Will workers who neglect to bring water have access to it?*)
 - ☐ Are restroom and/or wash facilities available? (*If not, do they need to be?*)

Actions of the District Advancement Committee Review:

Y N Project approved? (If not, ensure Scout has a complete understanding of what he needs to add or change)

FOLLOW-UP NOTES IF REQUIRED:

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EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION

The official Eagle Scout Rank Application, form 58-728, follows this page. It may be copied and printed to be filled out, but it must be printed in color and with both sides printed on one sheet of paper.

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TO THE EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICANT. This application is to be completed after you have completed all requirements for the Eagle Scout rank. **Print in ink or type all information. List the month, day, and year for all dates.** When using computer date blocks list the date: July 8, 1970, as 07 (for July) 08 (for day) 70 (for year). When you have completed this application, sign it and submit it to your unit leader.

FOR COUNCIL USE ONLY	
COUNCIL NO.	TYPE OF UNIT
REGION C, N, S, W	NATIONAL NO.
NAME ON OFFICIAL REGISTRATION	

[illegible]

Street or R.F.D. Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone (Including area code)	
Troop, Team, Crew, or Ship	Local No.
City, State, Zip	

Had you completed fifth grade upon joining?

Month		Day		Year	

☐ Yes ☐ No

Month		Day		Year	

Month		Day		Year	

Name	Address	Telephone

MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED					UNIT NO.	MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED					UNIT NO.	MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED					UNIT NO.
1 CAMPING							8 FIRST AID							15						
2 CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY							*†9 CYCLING <i>OR</i> HIKING <i>OR</i> SWIMMING							16						
3 CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION							10 PERSONAL MANAGEMENT							17						
4 CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD							†11 PERSONAL FITNESS							18						
5 COMMUNICATIONS							12 FAMILY LIFE							19						
*6 EMERGENCY PREPARED- NESS <i>OR</i> LIFESAVING							13							20						
7 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE							14							21						

†Effective April 1, 1999.

REQUIREMENT 4. While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of six months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility. **List only those positions served after Life board of review date.**

Boy Scout troop. Patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, quartermaster, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, historian, Venture patrol leader

Varsity Scout team. Captain, cocaptain, program manager, squad leader, team secretary, librarian, quartermaster, chaplain aide, instructor, den chief, Order of the Arrow team representative

Venturing crew/ship. President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, quartermaster, historian, guide, boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, storekeeper

Position _____ Position _____	FROM FROM	Date of Life Scout board of review <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year																			TO TO	<table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year																		

REQUIREMENT 5. While a Life Scout, **plan, develop, and give leadership to others** in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. The project idea must be approved by your Scoutmaster and troop committee and by the council or district before you start. **You must use the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook, No. 18-927*, in meeting this requirement.**

Project name: _____	Date project was completed <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

Grand total of hours: _____ (from page 10 of *Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook*)

REQUIREMENT 6. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference (with Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor). Attach to this application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service.

Date conference was held	<table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

CERTIFICATION BY APPLICANT. On my honor as a Scout/Venturer, all statements on this application are true and correct. All requirements were completed prior to my 18th birthday.

Signature of applicant _____	Telephone _____	Date <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

UNIT APPROVAL (personal signatures required)

Signature of unit leader _____	Telephone _____	Date <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor

Signature of unit committee chair _____	Telephone _____	Date <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

BSA LOCAL COUNCIL CERTIFICATION. According to the records of this council, the applicant is a registered member of this unit and this application is approved as accurate.

Signed _____	Position _____	Date <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW. The applicant appeared before the Eagle Scout board of review on this date, and this application was approved.

Review date	<table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year							This date will be used on the Eagle Scout credentials.

Signature of Eagle Scout board of review chairman

Signature of council/district board representative (if applicable)

I certify that all procedures, as outlined in *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, have been followed. I approve this application.

Scout Executive _____	Date <table border="1" style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table> Month Day Year						

Presentation of the rank may not be made until the Eagle Scout credentials are received by the BSA local council.



NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION. The National Eagle Scout Association is a fellowship of men who have achieved the Eagle Scout rank. Membership embraces the top achievers of the Boy Scouts of America. Benefits include a subscription to *Eagleletter*. The journal keeps NESAs members informed on Scouting in general and Eagle Scouting in particular.

Applications are available at your local council service center.

Regular five-year memberships are \$25. Life memberships are \$180.

EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE VALIDATION

EDITIONS OF THIS APPLICATION PREVIOUS TO THE 2008 REVISION SHOULD NOT BE USED.



Eagle Scout Rank Application Checklist

NAME: _____

UNIT: _____ DATE: _____

BOARD OF REVIEW DATE: _____

BOARD CHAIRMAN: _____ TEL: _____

- ☐ Applicant's name is spelled correctly and is complete, address stated,
- ☐ PID number is entered in blank at top left corner of application.
- ☐ Unit type, unit number, location is stated (only state may be abbreviated).
- ☐ Dates for joining Boy Scout Troop, became Varsity Scout or Venturer, and dates for Boards of Review for First Class and Star Scout entered.
- ☐ At least 4 months elapsed between First Class and Star Scout Boards of Review.
- ☐ At least 6 months between Star Scout and Life Scout Boards of Review.
- ☐ Scout has been registered in Scouting for 6 months since Life Scout Board of Review (Requirement 1).
- ☐ List of references completed (Requirement 2). Religious reference must not be blank.
- ☐ Merit badges and their dates checked with back-up proof (Requirement 3).
- ☐ Positions of responsibility in unit are in eligible positions and for term of six months since Life Scout Board of Review (Requirement 4).
- ☐ Eagle Project completed prior to 18th birthday (Requirement 5).
 - ☐ Eagle Leadership Service Project Workbook attached to application.
 - ☐ Completion signatures in workbook.
 - ☐ Project sufficiently documented in "Carrying out the Project" section.
- ☐ Scoutmaster's Conference completed prior to 18th birthday (Requirement 6).
 - ☐ Statement of ambitions and life goals attached to application.
- ☐ Signatures and dates for Applicant, Unit Leader, Unit Committee Chairman.
- ☐ Eagle Board will be less than 3 months following age 18 (if not, special letter to be prepared).
- ☐ Eagle Board will be scheduled more than 3 but less than 6 months following 18th birthday.
 - ☐ Statement by unit Adult Leader as to reason for delay of Board of Review
 - ☐ Approval by NCAC to conduct Board of Review
- ☐ Eagle Board will be conducted more than 6 months after 18th birthday
 - ☐ Petition to National Council prepared for permission to conduct Board of Review.
 - ☐ Approval by National Council to conduct Board of Review.
- ☐ All entries reasonably legible.

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**NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

REQUEST FOR CHARACTER REFERENCE

TO:

DATE:

REGARDING: _____ UNIT: _____

The Scout/Venturer named is an applicant for the Eagle Scout rank, which is the highest rank in Boy Scouting. Before the award of Eagle Scout Rank is approved, the Board of Review must be thoroughly convinced that the applicant has made a sincere effort to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and to demonstrate Scout Spirit and participation.

I would appreciate a statement from you giving your frank opinion of the applicant's conduct and leadership ability. Please provide a statement on his behalf, addressing the extent to which he exemplifies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his personal life. Your personal knowledge of the applicant is also solicited concerning his character and leadership attributes. You may make your statement on the back of this letter.

Thank you in advance for your letter on behalf of the applicant and for your support of the Boy Scout program. Please return your letter to the name and address noted below. Your letter will remain confidential and will be reviewed only by the members of the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

UNIT LEADER:

RETURN TO:

THE SCOUT OATH	SCOUT MOTTO	SCOUT LAW		SCOUT SLOGAN
On my honor, I will do my best; To do my duty to God and my Country, and to obey The Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.	Be Prepared	A Scout is: Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind	Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent	Do a good turn daily

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR EAGLE BOARD OF REVIEW

- Tell us about your Eagle Service Project.
- Who did the project help? How has it helped?
- Of all the merit badges you earned, which was the most meaningful? Why?
- Have any of your merit badge studies been of help in determining your future career?
- What are your plans for the future? How has Scouting helped you to prepare for your future? How?
- What do you like best about Scouting? Why?
- Now that you have completed your work for Eagle Scout rank, what are you going to do for Scouting?
- Tell us about your activities outside of Scouting. (Church, school, clubs, athletics)
- What makes an Eagle Scout different from other youth?
- As you remember the Scout Oath, what does it mean to you?
- You did not make it all the way to Eagle on your own. Tell us about some of the people who helped you and how they helped.
- Of all the parts of the Scout Law, which part is the most (or least) important? Why?
- Which of your Scouting experiences was most memorable?
- If you could do one thing differently in your Scouting experiences, what would it be?
- What does it mean to be an Eagle Scout?
- How can you pass on the skills you learned in Scouting?
- What is your duty to God?
- What is your duty to your Country?
- What is your duty to Self?

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Eagle Scout Rank BOARD OF REVIEW CHECKLIST

**THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW SHALL ENSURE THE
FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE ACCOMPLISHED:**

Scout:

Date of Board of Review:

	Eagle Scout Rank Application (Form 58-728) must be signed by Board Chairperson and District Representative with date of review inserted appropriately.
	Complete a standard Advancement Form (Form 34403A) or computerized substitute but only with the single name of the Eagle Scout candidate on the form; all members of the Board sign the advancement report.
	Determine a responsible party to send or take the materials to Council Headquarters Name: _____
	The following items are to be sent to Council Headquarters:
	Eagle Scout Rank Application *
	Advancement Form 34403A or computerized substitute *
	Eagle Leadership Service Project Workbook with all signatures
	Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose
	Copy of TroopMaster printout and/or photocopies of merit badge cards
	Submission of good, reproducible photos of completed project is encouraged. Follow guidance for use of model release statements by parents/guardians.

*** Mail additional copies of these two items to the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee chairman.**

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Front Line Stuff

Should Eagle courts of honor be individual or group?

Edited by Robert Peterson

Illustration by Bill Basso



Readers argued strongly for both possibilities when Scouter B.T. asked whether Eagle Scout courts of honor should be staged separately or for more than one new Eagle at a time.

If two Scouts are ready for courts of honor at the same time and one wants to have a separate ceremony, the troop should accommodate him.

Our troop has always believed that a boy's Eagle court of honor is unique for each Eagle, so he should have full control of it. It's up to the Scout to determine where and when it will be, what will be said during the ceremony, who will be invited, etc.

If we're going to honor young men for showing that they're mature and worthy of leadership and responsibility, there's no better way to confirm it than by letting each one determine how he's going to be recognized.

*Troop Committee Member S.R.,
Orlando, Fla.*

Our troop committee thinks the Eagle court of honor should be one of the highlights of a boy's career in Scouting and should not have to be shared with someone else.

Last year three of our Scouts completed the Eagle requirements at the same time and had their boards of review the same night. But each wanted his own court of honor and picked the ceremony he and his family liked from among the four we have on file.

*Assistant Scoutmaster R.J.
Rockford, Ill.*

Because our troop is large and many Scouts achieve Eagle, it would be virtually impossible for every new Eagle Scout to have an individual ceremony. Parents and Scouts need to realize that an Eagle court of honor is a huge investment of time and

energy on the part of those planning and participating in it, as well as community representatives who will attend.

No boy, other than those in the Lone Scout program, reaches Eagle rank without the support of the troop. Therefore, the needs and abilities of the troop must be considered when planning the ceremony.

*Troop Treasurer M.W.
West Milford, N.J.*

Each youth who has earned the Eagle Scout Award deserves individual recognition. In 20 years as a chartered organization representative for two troops, I have coordinated more than 30 Eagle Scout courts of honor, none of which has been identical to another. The new Eagle and his parents plan the ceremony in detail with a troop adult coordinator.

Check the *Eagle Court of Honor Handbook* introduction and notice the use of "personal event," "individual," and "...attention should be focused solely on him." We should treat our top achievers to the most special event they can plan and we can make happen.

*Chartered Organization Representative R.L.O.
Silverdale, Wash.*

The benefits of sharing are obvious, from costs to the convenience of dignitaries and other guests.

More importantly, the troop should always be in control of the event and not allow the parents to run it. This means the troop should have a policy regarding the Eagle court of honor program so that all courts are consistent. If a troop allows parents to choose the venue, agenda items, and reception details, you set up the troop for competition between families and questions of fairness.

*Council Vice President for Membership B.M.
East Meadow, N.Y.*

When new Eagles in our troop complete the requirements about the same time, we have a combined court of honor. The budget goes further for refreshments, and the crowd is larger and more festive.

However, we also encourage each new Eagle Scout to have the type of court of honor he prefers. If he and his family want a separate event, we plan for that. Some boys want a

formal ceremony in a church while others choose different settings. My son and two friends planned a campfire setting for their ceremony.

*Troop Treasurer B.B.
Leawood, Kan.*

I believe a troop should have a combined court of honor if it has more than one new Eagle Scout. If parents want to have a party to honor their son's achievement and invite close friends and relatives, they may do that, but an Eagle court of honor is for the entire unit.

*E.V.
Bristol, Conn.*

Our troop tradition has always been that the new Eagle Scout is completely in charge of his court of honor. This includes when, where, who speaks and presents—the entire program.

We encourage the parents to support their son in his planning. This has led to some creative and exciting courts of honor at camp-outs, in our church sanctuary, and in families' homes with parents, grandparents, and other relatives.

Every Eagle has been proud to create for himself a memorable event that he shares with others. Some have been simple, others elaborate. And in a couple of instances, two Eagles have planned their events together.

*Assistant Scoutmaster E.H.
Chesterfield, Mo.*

I am always upset that a troop would rob an Eagle Scout candidate of his "day on the pedestal." A young man who has worked toward the goal of an Eagle badge for three to seven years deserves his night.

I have attended many multiple Eagle ceremonies and have noticed that many people who attend do not know all the honorees. In a one-hour ceremony, each Eagle might get his 10 minutes in the spotlight, but is that really what he deserves for all he has gone through?

I remember a number of years ago when two Eagle candidates asked me for a joint ceremony; but when I talked with the families, I could see conflict building. One family wanted to invite a large number of guests from their large family, while the other wanted

few from their small family. There were also questions of costs and choice of refreshments.

Each Scout who attains Eagle rank deserves to be the focal point of attention for once in his life. And we as troop committee members and Scoutmasters should give him his deserved glory.

*R.F.
Amesbury, Mass.*

Last summer my son and a Scout buddy earned Eagle at the same time and wanted to have their court of honor together. I didn't know this was allowed, but once the troop assured me it was up to the Scout and his parents, we began planning.

The young men had a beautiful joint ceremony. They wanted to share their new status and did so in a truly special get-together. I would recommend this to any new Eagle and family who would like to share the spotlight.

*Troop Committee Member M.M.
Orlando, Fla.*

We have always encouraged candidates to get their Eagle Scout Award with their friends. Twice we have honored seven Scouts at one ceremony. We even have had one new Eagle who, rather than get his award alone, chose to wait to be recognized until his friends had earned theirs and could join him.

Our troop committee recently decided to have two Eagle courts of honor per year. In April we were scheduled to honor eight new Eagle Scouts, and we already have six who should be recognized in the fall.

Although this means the ceremony can be long, I think boys find it more enjoyable to get their award with boys who have been in Scouting with them for years.

We feel that each new Eagle Scout deserves to have every troop member and family present to recognize him for his achievement.

*Scoutmaster D.Y.
Strongsville, Ohio*

As a member of our local council's NESAs (National Eagle Scout Association) chapter, I am involved with Eagle Scout boards of review. When an Eagle candidate has passed the board, we inform him that the court of honor is his to plan. We suggest resources he may use (local council, National Council, and the Internet) and tell him that he should involve whomever he wishes to be in the ceremony.

We also suggest that other Scouts who have earned Eagle at the same time consider having a joint ceremony. However, we try to make it clear that this is his crowning moment in Scouting and that he alone should be the center of attention at his ceremony on that special day.

*Scoutmaster D.W.D.
Old Town, Me.*

The number of Eagle Scouts make individual courts of honor impossible for some troops. My Scoutmaster (Harry Maidment of Troop 25 in Manchester) awarded more than 300 Eagle Scout badges during more than 50 years of service. If he had held separate courts of honor, he would have had to have had one every eight weeks.

Besides, five or six young men receiving Eagle badges warrants a picture in the local paper. Positive publicity is a blessing.

*R.C.J.
Manchester, Conn.*

The question to ask is: What do the Eagle Scout candidates want? They should make the decisions concerning their ceremonies...

Since earning my Eagle in 1969, I have been an assistant Scoutmaster in seven troops in four states. Virtually all of them have vested the Eagle Scout candidates with responsibility for most of the decisions regarding the ceremony.

As long as what the Scouts wish to do is respectful of the aims of Scouting, basic troop traditions, and the significance of the Eagle Scout Award itself, the job of adult leaders should be to provide counsel and guidance in the planning and to help them execute their plans.

*Assistant Scoutmaster C.B.
Olympia, Wash.*

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Eagle Scout News Release Format

Instructions

Part of the thrill of receiving the Eagle Scout rank is to be recognized for a job well done! This recognition is good for the newly advanced Scout, motivational for aspiring young Scouts and serves as a reminder to our friends in the community that Scouting is a force for good. Please take time to prepare a news release that will allow your local newspaper to print an article about your Eagle Scout! It is easy and will not take a lot of time. Please fill in the information blanks on this form. The District Vice Chair for Communications and Marketing is available to assist in obtaining publicity (see contact information at <http://goosecreekdistrict.org>).

Story Information

Name of Scout Receiving Eagle rank:	
Unit Type and Number:	Name of Sponsoring Organization (church, school, etc.):
Name of Scoutmaster/unit leader:	
Date and Place of Court of Honor:	
Name of Scout's Parents:	
Telephone and email where you can be contacted for clarification:	
Brief Description of Eagle Project, number of people who worked on it and how it will help those who benefit from it:	

Photo

A good, close up front shot photograph of the Eagle Scout in uniform is of interest to newspaper editors and in many instances will be printed. The Scout can either be alone in the picture or shown in a small group with his or her parents and/or Scouting leaders. Please note that large group shots, pictures taken from a long distance, etc. are not as effective. You may wish to include a photo caption for the paper to use, such as: "Eagle Scout Daniel Jones poses with his Scout Master, Frank Johnson during his Eagle Court of Honor."

Photo Caption:

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Today I Am An Eagle

The Old Ones tell of the nest
Of the sacred bird called the Eagle

Home for her eaglets sits high,
Touching the sky.

A mother sits proud and defiant,
She has little ones who will soon leave her,
She worries;

The morning has come,
The Mysterious One's rays warm her children's faces.
Today one will fly or fall:

A flap of wings, a screech of power,
He leaps, he is gone.

His head does not look back
There is sadness behind.

He flies east his wings flapping power,
He passes his cousins of the air,

HE HAS BECOME AN EAGLE.

-- Howard Rainer, Taos-Creek, 1977

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