

Boy Scout Troop 310

Life to Eagle

Congratulations Life Scout!

In six months you can earn the highest rank in Boy Scouts, that of Eagle Scout. Some of the steps you are familiar with. You will have merit badges to earn and six more months of leadership to your troop, just like with Star and Life. However, there will be a few things that are different. Instead of providing a few hours of service time, you will be conducting a service project of your very own. Your Board of Review will also be different than you have experienced before. This letter will help explain what is expected of you.



First off is your Eagle Project. While this may seem to be a huge undertaking, you are no doubt capable of carrying this through to completion. You would not have made it this far if you weren't. The first step is to come up with an idea of what you want to do. Your Eagle project can be anything you want, as long as it meets a few conditions. The main goal is that it has to add some sort of value to a community. This community can be the town you live in. It could be a church, or school, or civic group. Past Eagle projects have assisted with improving the Outdoor Class room at the High School, gathered food for the Community Assistance Council, and beautified the Public Works grounds. Other Eagle projects have been to organize a blood drive for the Community Blood Center or to put up a fence around the football field. There are many various ideas out there.

Secondly, you have to prepare an Eagle Scout Rank Application. This is the official form that will be sent first to the Council, then on to the National Office, where your application will officially be accepted, making you an Eagle Scout.

Next, there are four recommendation letters attesting to your general character. These letters are to come from your parents, a principal or teacher, your religious leader, and your Scoutmaster.

Then, you will participate in a Scoutmaster Conference. This is generally held on a night separate from the regular Troop Meeting.

Finally, you will have your Board of Review. This is held at the Blue Elk District Roundtable. Your board will consist of 3-4 leaders from the Troop, and a member from the District staff that will represent the Council as a whole.

Once the Board of Review is complete, the application is submitted to Council by the District Advancement Committee where it is reviewed and forwarded on to the National Office. We usually receive the final paperwork back in 3 to 4 weeks.

The following are details which should hopefully explain the steps described above. If you still have questions, please feel free to ask the Advancement Chair, your Eagle Advisor or the Scoutmaster.

The Eagle Project

Are there ideas that won't be accepted you ask? Yes. For example, landscaping a retired couple's property will not be accepted. Why? Because, it does not benefit a community. Another idea that will not be accepted is a project that is a routine maintenance project, such as painting classrooms at a school or church. Painting can be a part of the project, it just can not be the whole project. If you were to build shelves and paint the walls prior to installation, then that is acceptable. This is because you are adding value by building the shelves. Also, fundraising can not be the project in itself. You may have a fundraiser as part of the project to help pay for supplies for your project; it just can't *be* the project.

Also, you do not have to come up with the idea all on your own. You can arrange to meet with the head of the organization you would like to do the project for, whether it be a church leader, or park ranger, or city employee; and ask them what projects they have available that you might lead. Don't feel that you have to take the first project that comes along. Make sure it is something you want to do, and feel comfortable with. Don't let yourself be talked into a project that will take 500+ man hours to complete unless you feel you are willing and capable of completing it.

There is no minimum on how much your project should take, but a good rule of thumb is about 40 man hours. This includes the time you spend discussing the project, writing it up and then performing it. For example, you might spend 10 hours preparing the project (Discussing with the community leader, writing the project up, getting the approval at Roundtable, and setting up the date and lining up your volunteers to work), and then you and 4 other people spend 6 hours carrying the project out, and you easily have your 40 hours in.

Once you have your idea ironed out, you will need to prepare your Eagle Project Workbook. This workbook can be found online, or with a CD that we can provide to you. This is available in two formats. The PDF format requires that you print it out and type on it. The Word format allows you to modify the workbook itself and then print it all out when you are done. The workbook can not be hand written when you turn it in for approval. It has to be typewritten or generated from a computer. If you do not have access to either, please let your Scoutmaster, Advancement Chairman or Eagle Advisor know and we will help you out.

When you have your project ready, you need to



schedule with the Committee Chairman a date to present your project before the Troop Committee. The Committee generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Exceptions do happen, which is why you need to get it scheduled. Arrive at the meeting a few minutes before the start in full Class-A uniform ready to present. Be prepared to be asked questions about your project. You may need to know what materials, tools and manpower you will need. If possible, include “before” pictures of the area your project will take place, and drawings of what you plan to do. Have an idea what safety precautions need to be taken, and if you will be serving a meal for your workers if it is a full day’s project.

If your project makes it past the Committee, the next step is to take your project to the District Roundtable for final approval. Roundtable is held on the first Thursday of each month. Due to Scout Camp, there is no Roundtable in July. Project approvals are taken on a first come/first serve basis. Show up at 7:00pm, and you get out earlier.

Now, if your project gets approval, it is time to set up the dates you wish to perform the project. When you decide on a date, please confirm the date with your Scoutmaster to make sure there are no conflicts, and so he can get your project on the Troop calendar and Troop Newsletter. In the two weeks prior to your dates, remind Scouts about your project at the closing circle, and take names of volunteers. Give them reminder calls the day before.

The Eagle Rank Application

The image shows a screenshot of the Eagle Scout Rank Application form. The form is titled "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION" and includes a section for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION" with a grid for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION". It also includes a section for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION" with a grid for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION". The form is filled out with various details, including a grid for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION" and a section for "EAGLE SCOUT RANK APPLICATION".

The Eagle Rank Application can be found on the National Eagle Scout Association website (www.nesa.org). The file is a fillable PDF, allowing you to populate the form with your advancement data, save the file, and update until you are finished. It asks you to enter your legal name. Your legal name is what is on your birth certificate. Please do not enter initials, or nicknames.

To aid you in completing this form, an Eagle Application Assistance report can be generated from TroopMaster. Contact the Advancement Chair, Eagle Advisor or Scoutmaster, any of which should be able to generate this report, and print it out or email you a copy. The report will list the merit badges earned and the dates you

earned them, as well as the dates you earned Star and Life ranks, which are needed for the application. For the merit badges that have multiple options, such as Swimming, Hiking, or Cycling, make sure to cross out the badges that you are not using for Eagle.

For example, if Swimming MB is the one you are counting as the required badge, cross out Hiking and Cycling.

Complete the form up to Requirement # 5. Everything after that will be filled in later.

Once you have completed the form, you must print it out on a single sheet of paper (front and back). This is to prevent the two pages from ever getting separated. Set the completed form aside to bring to your Scoutmaster Conference. If you need help with this, see the Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair, or Eagle Advisor.

Statement of Your Ambitions and Life Purpose

In requirement 6 of the Eagle Rank Application, you will see mention of a statement of ambition and life purpose. In this statement, write out what you see yourself doing once you've earned Eagle. This may be to graduate from high school, go on to college and get a job in a certain career field. It may include a family life. Just visualize where you see yourself in 10 to 15 years.

Add to this statement any awards you may have earned from school, church or other extra activities you may have participated in. If you are a member of another group where you have shown leadership, such as Student Council, make sure to include that as well.

Print a copy of your statement, and bring this to your Scoutmaster Conference.

Recommendation Letters

To help the Review Board get a look at you from an outside source, you will be asked to have recommendation letters supplied from four different areas. These letters will come from your parents, your principal (or teacher), your religious leader and your Scoutmaster. Specific forms for this are supplied by the Advancement Chair.

Before giving the form to these individuals, make up a pre-addressed, stamped envelope to go with it. The envelopes need to be addressed to the Advancement Chair. **The Advancement Chair is not to open the letters**, therefore, please add your last name and a reference to which letter it goes with. Add the following code letters: P for parent, A for Academic, R for Religious and S for Scoutmaster. In the lower left corner on the front, or on the top middle of the back of the envelope write your name and code (i.e. Smith – R). Make sure that the right code goes to the right person. The reason for this is so when it is received by the Advancement Chair, it can be determined which Scout it is for, and whom it is from. It is important to know which letter has not been received, so that you may inquire with that person in case it does not arrive. Remember, the Advancement Chair is not to open the letters, so this is the only way he knows whose letter he has received.

These letters will go to Roundtable, and will be disposed of after the Board of Review. You will never see them.

The Scoutmaster Conference

Once you are ready and have completed all the requirements and filled in your Eagle Scout Application and written your statement of ambition and life purpose, you will want to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with your Scoutmaster. Currently, Eagle SMCs are not held on Monday. This is to insure that your Scoutmaster has your undivided attention. Most often, this conference is not even held at the Church. You and the Scoutmaster will come to an agreement on where and when it will be held.

The conference will last from 30 to 45 minutes. Come prepared with your Eagle Scout Project workbook, your completed Eagle Scout Application and present yourself in Field Uniform (aka Class A). The first 10-15 minutes will be used to review your workbook and application. Afterwards, the SMC will proceed with the usual questions as well as some preparatory questions that may come up in the Board of Review.

Once the conference is over, you and the Scoutmaster will sign the application in the lines provided. Afterwards, the Scoutmaster will retain the application and Project Workbook unless they are not completed. If that is the case, you will be given further instructions on what you will need to do. Once the application has been signed additionally by the Committee Chair, the application will be taken to the Council Office for final review and signoff.

The Board of Review

Before the Board of Review can be scheduled, the Advancement Chair will need to have the completed Eagle Project Workbook, the completed and council-signed Eagle Rank Application and the four recommendation letters in hand. At least two week's notice must be given to the Blue Elk District Eagle Committee in order to get you placed on the list for an Eagle Board of Review.

The Eagle Board of Review is held at the Blue Elk District Roundtable. These are held on the first Thursday of each month. There is no Roundtable held in July, but Eagle Boards are still done, usually at a different location.

The Eagle Board will consist of 3 to 4 members of the Troop Committee and 1 member of the District. This District member is designated the Eagle Guest Representative. He or she will be in charge of the Board. Once they convene, they will review the application, the project workbook and the reference letters will be opened and read. This will take 5 to 10 minutes. Once completed, you will be called in. Expect the Board to last 20 to 30 minutes. You will be asked any sort of question, some of which may not even be related to your time in Scouting. Answer the questions to the best of your ability. Many questions are not a "yes" or "no" type. They are questions for the board to learn about you as a person. However, some questions may be about your Scouting skills, so it is always a good idea to review all rank requirements going all the way back to Scout.

In conclusion, try not to worry too much. The fact that you made it to the Board is a sign that you are ready to become an Eagle Scout. You could not have made it to that point if you weren't. Just prepare yourself by reviewing your Scout Handbook, your Eagle Scout Project, and by reviewing the sample questions that the Scoutmaster should provide you at your Scoutmaster Conference. In doing that, you will be prepared to join a group that only 4 in 100 Scouts nationally ever achieve.