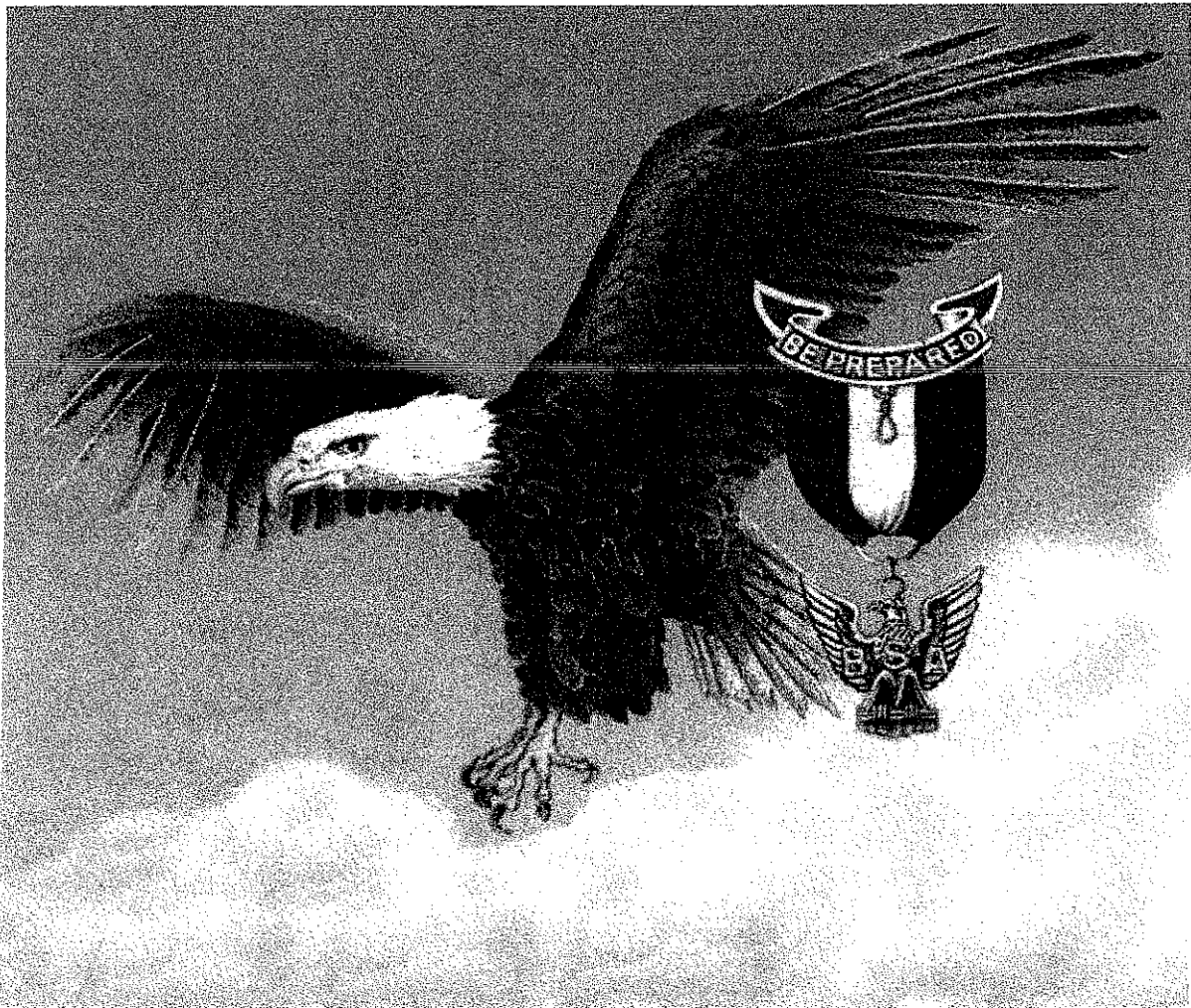


Life to Eagle





WHAT'S IT WORTH?

The Eagle Badge ... The highest rank that a Scout can earn ... What is it worth? ... Well, in dollars and cents it is worth \$6.50 ... probably a dollar and a half in silver, twenty cents worth of ribbon, and the rest of it in manufacturing and handling costs ... But, what is it really worth to you?

Think back to when you first became a Scout. Remember the Scout skills that you learned for each rank. The rededication to the Scout Oath and Law each time you advanced. Think of the service that you have given to your troop and to other people. Is your Eagle badge worth six fifty? Of course not. Your Eagle badge is priceless. It represents everything that you have learned, everything that you have done, to be prepared, to help others, and to help yourself. So now you stand at the peak of the mountain. An Eagle Scout ... now look ahead ... look sharp. Way out there in the mist is another mountain ... and there below is the trail to your future. It may be a long trail, or a short one, but it leads to that mountain far away. As you walk down the trail, and as the years roll by, and you finally reach the end, we all hope that you can look back on the trail of life and be able to say, "I have done my best."

Charge to the Eagle Scout

I charge you to undertake your citizenship
with a solemn dedication.

Be a leader, but lead only toward the best.

Lift up every task you do and every office
you hold to the high level of service to God and
your fellow man.

So live and serve that those who know you
will be inspired to finer living.

I charge you to be among those who dedicate
their skills and ability to the common good.
Build America on the solid foundation of clean
living, honest work, unselfish citizenship, and
reverence for God;

And, whatever others may do, you will leave
behind you a record of which every other scout
may be justly proud.

Life To Eagle Guidelines

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Life to Eagle Guidelines

Note: These guidelines and the companion seminar regarding the Life to Eagle process are provided as a compilation of available guidelines and tips to assist potential Eagles in their discovery of how to accomplish the final step to Eagle. The primary reference for guidance is the BSA's Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures.

As a Life Scout you have reached a high place in the ranks of Scouting. One more step and you are on the top - an Eagle. Getting there is quite a challenge. Statistics show that of one hundred Scouts who join, only one or two become an Eagle Scout. Being an Eagle is not the end; however, there are a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead for you as you soar in your Scouting career. Remember: **"Once an Eagle Always an Eagle!"**

1. ADVANCEMENT IN ORDER

To advance to the rank of Eagle, you must complete all requirements of tenure, Scout spirit, merit badges, and positions of responsibility while a Life Scout. You must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project and have a Scoutmaster conference. (Appendix A for Eagle Scout Rank Requirements).

It is highly recommended that you have the twenty-one (21) required merit badges completed or almost completed before beginning your Eagle service project. The Eagle service project puts to use the skills and experiences you have learned along your trek to Eagle. Unfortunately, some Scouts are unable to complete all the required merit badges before they become eighteen, despite finishing the service project. They therefore are not eligible for Eagle.

You are encouraged to store copies of your advancement records in a safe place. Keep track of all rank advancement cards, blue merit badge cards, and merit badge presentation cards. It is helpful to store them in plastic baseball card holders.

Troops should keep thorough records for each Scout's advancement. All records should reflect complete dates (month, day, and year) of completion. Merit badge dates should be the date the Scout completed the merit badge, not the date the presentation card is awarded. Troops must properly report all advancement to the National Capital Area Council (NCAC) using Internet Advancement or Advancement Report (Form 34403B). Troops should keep the "Application for Merit Badge" portion of each merit badge card that is completed for each Scout. These will be used to fill in any missing information or dates that have not been reported to the council.

If you were a member of more than one Scout troop during your Scouting career, you should have your previous troop provide a formal transfer form to your new troop as soon as possible. That transfer record becomes a part of your new troop's advancement records.

2. EAGLE SERVICE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, SELECTION, AND PRE-APPROVAL

A. Eagle Scout Project Guidelines

Like the ranks of Star and Life, the Eagle rank requires a service project. Unlike the other two service projects, the Eagle project requires that you be the leader.

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.

When finished the project must be of real value. Your project concept/plans must be approved by the benefiting organization, your unit leader (Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, Venturing Crew Advisor), your unit committee, and your District Eagle Representative BEFORE YOU BEGIN. This pre-approval of the project does not mean that the board of review will approve the way the project was carried out. In selecting a project remember:

- 1) The project must conform to the wishes and regulations of those for whom the project is undertaken.
- 2) You must clearly demonstrate leadership skills learned in Scouting and must:
 - a) plan the project's work
 - b) line up and organize people to help
 - c) give leadership to the work
 - d) direct the project to its completion.
- 3) Service to others is important. Your service project should benefit a non-profit organization such as a religious organization, school, or community. It may not benefit any BSA organization or property associated with the BSA. It also may not be performed for a business, be of a commercial nature, or be a fund-raiser.

NOTE: Fund-raising is permitted only for procuring materials for supplies needed to carry out the project. However, most often these are provided by the benefiting organization.

- 4) Projects that are pre-planned by others such as some blood drives, are not acceptable. A blood drive can be an acceptable project, but only if you are responsible for the planning, organizing, and leading of others to carry out the project.
- 5) Service should be beyond the normally rendered routine labor, job, or service. There is no minimum number of hours that must be spent on carrying out the project. The service project should be of significant magnitude to be special and enough for you to clearly demonstrate leadership skills. It should represent your best possible effort.
- 6) A service project can only be for one Eagle candidate and not be shared.

- 7) All work on the project must be done while you are a Life Scout and before your 18th birthday unless a time extension has been granted (See Time Extensions, BSA Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures).

B. Resources

You are not alone on your trek to Eagle. You have many people and tools available to you. You are encouraged to be resourceful and take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Your troop is the first source of information and guidance. There are numerous published books, pamphlets, and help sheets available. Key to all these is the Boy Scout Handbook and the BSA Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures.

Beyond the troop, are the members of the District's Advancement Committee and Eagle Representatives, and the National Capital Area Council, as well as members of other troops, who are available to provide additional information and guidance.

To identify a possible service project you must research the available projects by checking with potential benefiting organizations. Almost every non-profit organization in the community needs help at some time or another. Discuss your desire to help with the head of the organization. You should ensure that the project adheres to the guidelines for a project and it is for an appropriate organization. Some of the possible organizations to pursue are your local:

- 1) Troop sponsor
- 2) School
- 3) School administrators and board of education
- 4) Church/Synagogue/Mosque
- 5) City/county parks and recreation departments
- 6) State and national parks
- 7) Historic organizations
- 8) Conservation and energy groups
- 9) Town/city/county government offices
- 10) Fire/police departments
- 11) Drug information centers
- 12) Public libraries
- 13) Children's homes
- 14) Camps/schools for handicapped
- 15) Veterans' organizations
- 16) Civic clubs
- 17) United Way
- 18) Hospitals
- 19) Salvation Army
- 20) Hospices

NOTE: Beware of Nursing Homes, Senior Homes/Centers and Blood Bank Projects - be sure you are able to demonstrate planning, organizing, and leadership. These organizations also need to be non-profit organizations.

C. Project Ideas

When trying to identify a service project start by brainstorming. List as many projects as you can, then review the list for items of most interest to you. Keep in mind that you want to do something of value for others and perform service that you will be proud to have performed. The project does not have to be your original idea, but must be planned, directed, and carried out by you. Once you have an idea of what you want to pursue you should approach the appropriate organization

D. Project Approval

After identifying a project, discussing it with the potential benefiting organization's representative, and developing preliminary plans, you should touch base with your unit leader, Troop Life to Eagle Guide or Advancement Chairperson to check if the project is appropriate for an Eagle project. If so, acquire an "Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook" from the NCAC web page (<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org>) or (<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/powhatan>) Be sure to download the enter project workbook.

You should fill out the workbook's cover-sheet with information about yourself and your unit. Then under "Project Description" provide a brief description of what you plan to do. The proposed service project concept should be described sufficiently to enable those required to review it with adequate information to determine that the project is appropriate. The project should be described with clearly defined limits, i.e., build a flower bed about 20' x 3' on each side of the walk leading to the main door of (name) church. Be sure to indicate the benefiting organization information and how your project will be of benefit to the group. Discuss your project concept with your unit leader and the representative of the benefiting organization.

Next, under "Project Details" provide how you plan to accomplish the project. Describe the present condition, the method, materials to be used, project helpers, a time schedule for carrying out the project, the estimated cost of the project, and how the needed funds will be obtained. Describe any safety hazards you might face and explain how you will ensure the safety of those carrying out the project. If appropriate, include a photograph of the project area before you begin your work. It is suggested that additional sheets be attached, if needed by the project, to provide adequate space for necessary information. Also, if appropriate, provide sketches/plans of anything you plan to build.

This plan must be previewed by the benefiting organization and unit leader. You must then acquire the approval signatures and dates in the following order:

- 1) Benefiting organization
- 2) Unit leader, i.e., Scoutmaster/Coach/Advisor
- 3) Unit committee member
- 4) District Eagle Representative

You will personally present your workbook for approval to each respective approval authority. Each of the above must review and approve your proposed Eagle project. It is often

necessary for you to make some clarifications or modifications to the workbook prior to receiving an approval. This approval of the project does not mean that the board of review will approve the way the project was carried out. The following questions must be answered by each of the approval authorities before giving approval:

- 1) Who will benefit?
- 2) How will they benefit?
- 3) What official from the group benefited will be contacted for guidance in planning the project?
- 4) How many people will be recruited to carry out the project?
- 5) Is the project an appropriate Eagle project?
- 6) Does the candidate have a good understanding of how to approach the project and is he capable of planning, developing and leading others in the accomplishment of proposed project?
- 7) Is the project clearly defined and not open ended? It must be a project that can be delineated so the candidate, benefiting organization, troop, and district can determine when the project is complete.

The approval is based on the description and details of the project proposed by you and your readiness to pursue the project based on your worthiness of the Eagle rank.

Once all of the approval signatures have been obtained the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook should be stored in a safe place. It is a key document that will be part of your Eagle Application and project write-up package.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Plan Your Project

Be sure to take time to plan your project. As a leadership project, you must demonstrate that you have planned, organized, and lead others in the accomplishment of the project. This will require that you:

- Plan the work to be done.
- Organize the work and manpower.
- Direct the project to completion.

You must involve other people to carry out your project. The majority of the project should be done by others.

You should start by identifying the major goals and key element objectives that are required to accomplish those goals. You must anticipate the required manpower (number of hours of work by any personnel), materials (lumber, sand, etc.), and tools/equipment (rakes, shovels, etc.). You should be sensitive to the availability of scouts and adults to work (due to holidays, troop activities, school calendar, etc.) and the opportunities to work which may be impacted by weather or other conditions when making your plans. Your goals and objectives should be reasonably attainable in the time frame you set.

B. Planning Sessions

Have planning sessions with others, as appropriate, for your project. Some of those individuals might be the benefiting organization, the Scoutmaster, the troop committee, or other troop leaders.

On some projects it is appropriate to organize the project into major components and divide the project personnel into teams with different responsibilities. Each team will have a leader. Then have separate pre-planning meetings with these team leaders.

C. Daily Log/Chronology

It is suggested that as soon as you start identifying potential Eagle projects, you keep track of everything that happens in a daily log. This chronological record of events should be recorded by activity, date and time spent (in hours and minutes) on every aspect of the project from inception to completion. Of major importance is the need to note how you planned, organized, and led others in the accomplishment of the project. Record the hours you spent in planning the project, carrying out the project and your total hours. It is recommended that you write a paragraph on "How I Demonstrated Leadership in Carrying-Out My Project."

D. Chart of Work by Individuals

This section requires you to record the hours spent by scouts and other individuals in carrying out the project; the names, dates, and number of hours of all others who assisted you on the project. Record the total number of hours others worked on your project. For a grand total of hours, add the total number of hours you and others spent on the project.

E. Drawings, Sketches, Plots, and Maps

The use of drawings, sketches, plots, and/or maps to help others understand the tasks to be completed and those later completed in the project are often helpful in some types of projects, but are not specifically required.

F. Photographs

Photographs are often taken throughout the Eagle Service project to record the fine details of the project and to show the impact of the project. Pictures are required as part of the Eagle requirements. It is suggested that you record how things were before, during, and after the project. Take the appropriate number of pictures to reflect the project. All pictures should be

labeled and organized logically as to date, location, or process. Pictures are very helpful when sharing project information with the troop committee or the board of review.

G. Work Session Planning and Flyers

For each work session, you should make sure the effort is well thought out and planned. If appropriate for the project, pre-planning or preliminary work sessions should be held with team leaders and/or other key team members. You must ensure that all potential workers are aware of the opportunity to serve on your Eagle project and that all required materials and tools are available. You should present your plans to the Troop Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) and get it on the troop calendar as soon as possible. As work sessions approach remind workers by handing out flyers for each session which indicate all of the needed items, time, place, etc. Announcements should be made at troop functions and information communicated through patrol leaders. It's your project, but make sure others realize you can not do it without them and that you appreciate their efforts.

H. Anticipated Materials and Tools Required

You should anticipate what materials and tools will be required by the project and how you will acquire them. The benefiting organization should generally pay for all material expenses and may make some tools available. Other tools can often be brought by the scouts and adult workers. A listing of the materials anticipated is required as part of your planning details.

I. Actual Materials Used and How Funded

As part of the Project Workbook you must provide a listing of the actual materials and tools required to complete the project, with costs of materials.

J. Donations Received

List all donations you received and amount.

K. Changes

The Project Workbook requires you to list all changes to the original project plans and reasons for the change. It is common to have changes. It is important to know what the reasons for the changes were and recognize their impacts on the project.

L. Approvals for Completed Project

Under this section of the Project Workbook insert start date of project and completion date of project, including paperwork and final signature. You sign and date, then obtain the signature and date of your unit leader and the representative of the benefiting organization. Request a letter of completion from the benefiting organization.

Once the Eagle Leadership Service Project Workbook is completed, as indicated above, you are now ready to obtain and complete your Eagle Scout Rank Application.

4. EAGLE APPLICATION

You can obtain a current Eagle Scout Rank Application by downloading from the NCAC web page (<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org>) or (<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/powhatan>) Downloading in color is best, however black and white is acceptable. Note that this is a two-sided form so be sure to download both sides.

Dates must be complete (Month, Day, and Year).

Application Biographic and Historic Information

Enter your Personal Identification (PID) number at the top right of the application. Next, fill in all of the biographic and scout history information at the top of the form in the spaces provided. Be sure to indicate your name as you would like it to appear on your Eagle Certificate by spelling out the letters in the blocks provided. Give full Board of Review dates (Month, Day, and Year) for each Scout rank. Insert your date of birth.

Requirement #1 - Date of Life Board of Review

Requirement #1 states that you must be active in your troop, crew, or ship for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout. Indicate the date of your Life Scout Board of Review in the block provided.

Requirement #2 - Character References

Requirement #2 indicates that you must demonstrate that you live by the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. You must provide a list of names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a letter of recommendation on your behalf. These references should represent the following areas of your life: Parents/Guardians, Religious, Educational, Employment (if any), and two other references. If you do not have a religious affiliation or are home-schooled insert your parents/guardians name(s). If you have been employed you need to list you employer as a reference, if not, insert N/A.

You should contact those individuals listed as references before including their names on your application.

You should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as a reference and the troop committee and/or advancement chairperson or Eagle Board. References are confidential and their contents are not to be disclosed to any person who is not a member of the Eagle Board of Review.

Once the Eagle Service Project is completed and you have decided who to use as character references on your Eagle application, you should provide the names and addresses of all references to your troop committee and/or advancement chairperson.

The committee and/or advancement chairperson is responsible for requesting from each of the proposed references a letter of recommendation. These requests are sent to each of the references with a stamped self-addressed return envelope to the committee and/or advancement chairperson. Of the various references requested at least three (3), not counting the one from the parents, must be returned and presented to the Chairman of the Eagle Board at the pre-session of the Board of Review. These references will not be opened until that time.

Requirement #3 - Merit Badges

Requirement #3 – requires that you fill out the Eagle Scout Rank Application Merit Badge chart with the twenty-one merit badges used to meet the Eagle requirements.

For each required Eagle merit badge indicate the date earned and troop unit number. If you earned more than one of the required Eagle merit badges in one of the grouped categories (Emergency Preparedness/Lifesaving or Cycling/Hiking/Swimming) only one should be listed in the required merit badge area and the other crossed off with a single line. The other should then be listed as the first (or first two) optional merit badge(s) (#13, etc.).

The remaining optional merit badges reported should be those that you earned to achieve Star and Life rank. List them in order of date earned by identifying each merit badge and indicate the complete date (Month, Day, and Year) earned and troop unit number. All rank advancement tenure dates and merit badge completion dates will be closely verified that:

- 1) No merit badges have been earned before having completed joining requirements, had a Scoutmaster conference, and earned Scout status.
- 2) Four required merit badges were earned for the Star rank plus two others for a total of six merit badges.
- 3) Three additional required merit badges were earned for the Life rank plus two others for a total of five additional merit badges.

Be sure to use the earned date from the Merit Badge Card not the date on the Merit Badge Presentation Card, since it may reflect the date of the court of honor and not the date earned. These records will be validated later by the troop and the District Eagle Representative using the troop's copies of the advancement form to Council and merit badge cards and/or Troopmaster software printout.

Requirement #4 - Position of Responsibility

Requirement #4 states that while a Life Scout, you serve actively for a period of six months in one or more positions of responsibility. List only those positions served after Life board of review date. These include:

Boy Scout troop - Patrol leader, Venture patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, Webmaster, Leave No Trace trainer.

Varsity Scout team - Captain, co-captain, program manager, squad leader, team secretary, Order of the Arrow team representative, librarian, historian, quartermaster, chaplain aide, instructor, den chief, Webmaster, Leave No Trace trainer.

Venturing crew/ship - President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, quartermaster, historian, guide, boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, storekeeper, Webmaster, Leave No Trace trainer.

Lone Scout - Leadership responsibility in his school, religious organization, club, or elsewhere in his community.

Enter the date of your Life Scout Board of Review in the block provided. Indicate the positions of responsibility held and dates.

- 1) If you were in a leadership position on the date you make Life rank you must indicate the "from" date as the day after your Life Board of Review.
- 2) If you are currently holding a leadership position, indicate the date of the Eagle Application submission as the "to" date.

Requirement #5 - Eagle Service Project

Requirement #5 requires that you 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, by a district Eagle representative and the benefiting organization before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook in meeting this requirement. Indicate the name of your project, the grand total of hours, and date of final signature.

Note: Dates starting with Requirement #5 MUST be in ascending order, i.e., Project Completion date, before Scoutmaster Conference, before Applicant signature, before Unit Leader signature, before Unit Committee Chairperson signature. However, all of these may be the same date.

Requirement #6 – Scoutmaster Conference, Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose, and a List of Positions, Honors, and Awards Received

Requirement #6 – requires that you take part in a Scoutmaster conference (with Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor). Attach to this application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose. The statement should reflect your own thoughts, and not those of others. You should organize your thoughts then carefully describe your desires, goals and plans for your life. Include in your statement what your intentions are as far as scouting is concerned in general and your present troop in particular. Lastly, provide 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. You may use a resume to present your accomplishments. Aspects to cover:

- a. Community Activities: Sports, Theater, etc.
- b. Church Activities: Choir, Youth Groups, etc.
- c. School Activities: Clubs, Sports, Honor Societies, etc.
- d. Camp Activities: Guide, Counselor, etc.
- e. Work Experience: Baby-sitting, Lifeguard, etc. (include unpaid

Certification and Approvals

The rest of the Eagle Application provides places for certification and approvals.

1. You should sign and date the Certification By Applicant that on your honor as a Scout/Venturer all statements on the application are true and correct and that all requirements were completed prior to your 18th birthday. Include your telephone number.

2. Unit Approval – The unit leader (Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor) and the unit Committee chairperson must sign and date the application. They must also include their telephone numbers.

5. EAGLE PACKET SUBMITTAL

Upon completion of the project, the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook and Eagle Scout Rank Application must be submitted to your District Eagle Representative.

The Eagle packet should be compiled in the following order:

- a. Eagle Scout Rank Application
- b. Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose
- c. Listing of Honors and Awards
- d. Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook
- e. Completion Letter from Benefiting Organization
- f. Project Flyer, Drawings, Maps, Pamphlets
- g. Photographs – Before, During and After
- h. Individual Scout History Print Out
- i. Blue Merit Badge Cards and Rank Advancement Cards

When the packet is completed submit the original and one copy to your District Eagle Representative. **Do not submit to the council.** You are encouraged to make a complete set for your retention and provide a copy to the troop for the historical records of the troop.

After the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Service Workbook and Eagle Scout Rank Application have been provided to the District Eagle Representative he will review them to ensure they are properly prepared and ready for the local council certification. He will initial and date his approval next to the BSA local council certification on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. At that time you will pick up your Eagle packet and return it to your unit for their action. They will need to forward a copy of your Eagle Application to NCAC for their certification approval prior to your Board of Review.

Local BSA Council Certification

The Council will check, verify, sign and date the application certifying that the information and dates listed on the application match the information in ScoutNet and that the applicant is a registered member of the unit and is ready for his Board of Review. After the local council certification has been received back by the unit and after at least three references have been returned (not including the parents), the Eagle Board of Review can then be scheduled. Under no circumstances should a Board of Review be scheduled until the application has been certificated by the local council.

6. EAGLE BOARD OF REVIEW

A. Eagle Board of Review

The Eagle Board of Review is made up of at least three (3) but not more than six (6) members. These members do not have to be registered in Scouting, but they must have an understanding of the importance of the Eagle Board of Review. Generally, the unit Committee Chairperson or Advancement Chairperson decides who will be on the Board and serves as the Chairperson of the Eagle Board. At least one district or council advancement representative must be a member of the Eagle Board.

Often the unit Committee Chairperson and Advancement Chairperson are two of the members. The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster(s) may not be members of the Board, nor may any immediate member of your family. In no case should your relatives or guardian be members of or attend the review.

The members of the Eagle Review Board meet at least thirty (30) minutes before you appear to review the application, service project write-up, and character references. The character references are opened for the first time during this session.

Although the project idea must be approved before work is begun, the Board of Review must determine the manner in which you carried out your project. Questions regarding the project that must be answered are:

- 1) Did you demonstrate leadership of others?
- 2) Did you indeed direct the project rather or did you do all of the work yourself?
- 3) Was the project of real value to the benefiting organization?

4) Who from the group benefiting from your project may be contacted to verify the value?

5) Did the project follow the approved plan or were modifications needed to bring it to completion?

You should arrive at the Board of Review on time, in full Class A uniform, with your current membership card, and Scout Handbook. As an experienced Scout you should be able to easily present yourself, and recite the Boy Scout Oath and Law, motto and slogan.

Your Scoutmaster introduces you to the Eagle Board of Review. Your unit leader may remain in the room, but can not participate in the review. The unit leader may be called on to clarify a point in question.

There is no set of questions that you will be asked. The Board of Review is not a grilling session to re-examine your scout craft skills and advancements. It must be assumed that you successfully and fairly earned your merit badges and previous ranks. The Board is to be concerned with determining your character and amount of knowledge in the intangibles of Scouting (such as attitudes, fair play, leadership, etc.). The Board should be assured of your participation in, and the understanding of, the program. This is the highest award that you may achieve, and consequently, a thorough discussion of your successes and experiences in Scouting will be considered. Generally an Eagle Board of Review session may last about 30-45 minutes.

B. Sample Possible Eagle Board of Review Questions

- 1) We understand that you conducted an Eagle service project. In your own words, tell us about your project.
- 2) Who did your project help? How did it help?
- 3) Of all the merit badges you have earned, which was the most meaningful? Why?
- 4) Have any of your merit badge studies been of help to you in determining your future career?
- 5) What are your plans for your future? (College, Vocation) Has Scouting helped you in any way to prepare for your future? How?
- 6) What do you like best about Scouting? Why?
- 7) Now that you have completed your work for Eagle Scout, what do you see as your obligation to your troop?
- 8) Tell us something about your activities outside of Scouting? (Church, School, Clubs, or Athletics)

- 9) What makes an Eagle Scout different from other youth?
- 10) There are varying degrees of citizenship, from bad to good. What makes a good citizen?
- 11) As you remember the Scout Oath, what does it mean to you?
- 12) 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.
- 13) Of all the parts of the Scout Law, which part is most/least important and why?
- 14) Which Scouting experience was most memorable?
- 15) If you could do one thing differently in your Scouting experience, what would it be?

C. Eagle Review Board Action

After the review you and your unit leader will be asked to leave the room while the Board members discuss acceptability of you as an Eagle Scout. The final decision must be unanimous. The Eagle Board Chairperson and the District's Eagle Representative will sign and date that the applicant has appeared before the Eagle Board of Review and is recommended for Eagle Scout

If you meet the requirements, you are asked to return and are informed that you will receive the board's recommendation for the Eagle Award. You are then informed of the process through council and National. You are informed that this process can take 4-6 weeks. It is not until the certification from National is received at the National Capital Area Council that your award can be acquired and your Court of Honor held. In some cases there are delays.

NOTE: You continue to wear the Life rank badge until certification is received at NCAC or until your Eagle Court of Honor.

If you are found unacceptable, you are asked to return and told the reasons for your failure to qualify. A discussion should be held with you as to how you may meet the requirements within a given period. Should you disagree with the decision, the appeal procedures will be explained to you (See "Appealing a Decision" in the BSA Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures).

Immediately after the Board of Review and after the application has been appropriately signed, the application, the service project report, and a properly completed Advancement Report are delivered to the council service center with the Council certification notice. A copy of your Eagle application will be sent to the District Advancement Chairman for his use immediately after the Board of Review.

7. COUNCIL/NATIONAL PROCESSING

When the application arrives at the council service center it will be logged. The Scout Executive signs it to certify that the proper procedures have been followed and that the Board of Review has recommended the candidate for the Eagle Award. Only your application is electronically forwarded to the National Service Center. The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook is retained by the council.

The National Scout Service Center of the Boy Scouts of America in Texas will screen the application and validate it by indicating approval, signature and date. If there are any items that do not meet National standards your application will be returned for more information. If the application is in order, you are then certified as an Eagle Scout by the National Scout Service Center on behalf of the National Council. Notice of approval is given by sending the Eagle Scout certificate to the local council. The date used on the certificate will be the date of the Board of Review. Your Eagle Court of Honor should not be scheduled until the local council receives the Eagle rank credentials.

NOTE: It is not until the certification from the National Eagle Scout Service Center is received by the National Capital Area Council that the award can be acquired and final preparations made for the Eagle's court of honor.

8. EAGLE COURT OF HONOR IDEAS

In recognition of the importance of the Eagle Award a separate Eagle Court of Honor should be held. Rather than combining the Eagle rank advancement with others of the troop, it is highly recommended that it be a separate occasion which will be long remembered as a high point of your life. In some situations it is appropriate for multiple Eagles to share an Eagle Court of Honor, but only if it is possible to provide adequate recognition to each of the Eagle Scouts.

A. The purpose of an Eagle Award ceremony is:

- 1) First, to honor the Scout.
- 2) Second, to charge the Scout,
- 3) Third, to inspire other boys to follow this adventurous and rewarding trail.
- 4) Fourth, to show the community the product of Scouting so they will direct other to its program and support Scouting in all ways.

Therefore, a successful Eagle Court of Honor should feature: you, the Eagle Scout, your parents, and those other people who helped you along the trail to Eagle.

B. Eagle Court of Honor Planning and Expenses

1) Planning an Eagle Court of Honor (ECOHD) is somewhat like planning a wedding. Although there are some key elements that must be present in all Eagle Courts of Honor, your desires regarding other content, elements, participants, and refreshments should be sought. Each

troop handles these elements differently, including coverage of their cost. Check with the Troop Advancement Chair for troop traditions and policies. Court of Honor ideas are numerous and can be gathered from the Troop Advancement Chair, District Advancement Chair, and Eagle Representatives. Although your desires should be honored, it is also good to have some aspects of your Eagle Court of Honor about which you are not fully knowledgeable. You should be honored for your attainment of Eagle. Your parents and troop should work closely together in the planning, preparation, rehearsing, and presentation of your Eagle Court of Honor.

There are two key ingredients to any successful Eagle Scout Court of Honor: People and Program.

- a) People present at the Court of Honor should be your family and people who have been especially helpful to you in your life and scouting career, other Eagles, and members of the troop.
- b) The program itself should be kept short, not marred by rambling speeches or the intrusion of unrelated matters. Those who are to speak should keep remarks brief and to the point, speaking about you and your achievements. One of the speakers might be you. It is often interesting to hear your thoughts upon reaching your long sought goal.
- c) Following the ceremony, most units have a reception line and refreshments.

2) Invitations – Blank Eagle Court of Honor Invitations can be purchased from the National Capital Area Council Scout Shops or through the BSA Catalog. Be sure the invitations go out to all of the appropriate people, (including the entire troop) far enough in advance (one month) and contain all of the pertinent information, for the Eagle Court of Honor, such as:

- a) Eagle Scout being honored
- b) Troop #
- c) Date
- d) Time
- e) Place

(RSVP, if desired)

C. Sample Eagle Court of Honor Outline

Welcome – Opening Remarks
Invocation
Opening of Court of Honor
Presentation of Colors
Presentation of Eagle Candidate
Introduction of Guests

Reading – One Hundred Scouts
The Trail to Eagle
Eagle Light Box Ceremony
Eagle Charge
Presentation of Eagle Rank Badge
Presentations by Eagle Scout to Parents
Presentation of Eagle Certificate
Special Presentations (Letters, Awards, Gifts)
Comments by New Eagle Scout
Closing of Court of Honor
Retiring of Colors
Refreshments

Some items that can be used in an Eagle Court of Honor are:

- 1) Guest book
- 2) Boy Scout rank emblems
- 3) Eagle light box
- 4) Slide show showing Eagle badge
- 5) Large backdrop of Eagle badge
- 6) Video of project, Boy's Life, or Eagles
- 7) Live Eagles
- 8) Awards presentation
- 9) Notebook with certificates of recognition

D. Eagle Court of Honor Program

Once the Eagle Court of Honor program has been finalized and all participants have agreed to their involvement, a program for the event should be developed, produced and handed out at the Court of Honor. It should present the Eagle Court of Honor agenda and the presenters. It can come in a variety of sizes, methods of publishing, and content. It too is customized to contain the items that are desired by you, the Eagle to be honored. Some ideas of things that could be included are:

- 1) Brief History of your Scouting Career
- 2) Overview of your project
- 3) Acknowledgment of Appreciation
- 4) Picture of you and/or your project
- 5) Sketches
- 6) List of your Merit Badges
- 7) List of your Scouting Awards
- 8) List of Scouting Leadership Roles held
- 9) List of Special events in which you've participated
- 10) Poems/Stories relating to Scouting or Eagle, etc.
- 11) Names of other Eagles in the Troop

E. Recognitions of Accomplishment

The Eagle package from Council comes with one Eagle medal, rank patch, and a mother's pin. Recognition letters and certificates can be solicited by the troop and parents. It is suggested that they be pursued without the Scout's knowledge and that these be sought from organizations and leaders which have meaning to the Eagle.

It is suggested that during the court of honor only letters from the Boy Scouts of America and the President of United States be read and the rest of them be on display. Some put the letters in plastic document protectors and have them on display on a special table at the court of honor.

The names and addresses of key individuals are continually changing. Check with your local representatives for the latest information on whom and where to request certificates. Listed below are some typically desired ones:

- President of the United States
- Vice President of the United States
- Senators of Virginia
- Congressmen of Virginia
- Governor of Virginia
- Virginia Delegates for Northern Virginia
- County Leaders
- Town or City Leaders
- Mayor
- Director of the U.S. Government Agency, for which parent works
- Military Leaders, especially if the Scout is part of a military family or if the Scout is interested in military career

United States Flag: A flag that has flown over the U.S. Capitol building can be requested via a member of Congress. Check with your Congressman's office by phone to determine updated procedures and cost. You will then have to formalize the request in writing. Be sure to allow six weeks for delivery.

Some acknowledge the accomplishment of the Eagle by placing an article (complete with a picture of the Eagle Scout) in the local newspaper(s).

F. Other Awards:

Other awards and special gifts are available for recognizing the Scout and his family for his accomplishments. Each troop must decide which items are to be gifts of the troop and which items is the financial responsibility of the parents. Some of these are:

- 1) Eagle Father's tie tac/lapel pin
- 2) Ring (Eagle or NESAs) Neckerchief (Eagle or NESAs)
- 3) Neckerchief Slide (Eagle or NESAs)

- 4) Hat (Eagle/NESA)
- 5) Belt Buckle (Eagle/NESA)
- 6) Paperweight (Eagle/NESA)
- 7) Plaques (Troop and/or Boy)
- 8) Statues
- 9) Pictures
- 10) 5- year membership to the National Eagle Scout Association.

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

<p>Varsity Scout team. Captain, co-captain, program manager, squad leader, team secretary, OA team representative, librarian, quartermaster, chaplain aide, instructor, or den chief.</p>
<p>Venturing crew / Sea Scout ship. President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, quartermaster, historian, guide, boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, or storekeeper.</p>
<p>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 should benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your Scoutmaster and troop committee and the council or district before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook, BSA publication No. 18-927E, in meeting this requirement.</p>
<p>6. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.</p>
<p>7. Successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.</p>

* You must choose only one merit badge listed in items (g) and (j). If you have earned more than one of the badges listed in items (g) and (j), choose one and list the remaining badges to make your total of 21.

Note: All requirements must be completed before a candidate's 18th birthday. The Eagle Scout board of review can be held after the candidate's 18th birthday. For more information, see *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, publication No. 33088. **Also see the note below.**

If you have a permanent physical or mental disability, you may become an Eagle Scout by qualifying for as many required merit badges as you can and qualifying for alternative merit badges for the rest. If you seek to become an Eagle Scout under this procedure, you must submit a special application to your local council service center. Your application must be approved by your council advancement committee **before you can work on alternative merit badges.**