

LIFE TO EAGLE

by Bob Stailey, Adventure District Advancement Chair

As soon as you earn your Life Rank you should download the following form and workbook.

Eagle Scout Rank Application #512-728

Read and understand everything on the application
Start to fill in the information, first time in pencil, later type or ink
Check all dates with your troop's advancement person

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook #512-927

Read and understand everything in this workbook

The above form and workbook are available through the NBOF Council website

Eagle Scout Requirement 1

Be active in your troop, team, crew, or ship for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout.

You must be registered in your unit for at least the time period indicated in the requirement, and you must indicate in some way, through word or action, that you consider yourself a member.

You must be a Scout in good standing. You are considered in "good Standing" with your unit as long as you have not been dismissed for disciplinary reasons. You must also be in good standing with the local council and the Boy Scouts of America.

You must meet your unit's reasonable expectations or, if not, a lesser level of activity is explained.

Eagle Scout Requirement 2

Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. List the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf.

You will be questioned about the Scout Oath and Law during your Eagle board of Review and will be asked to recite both. Know both and be able to explain what they stand for and what they mean to you in your daily life.

Six recommendations are needed but the employer is not required if you do not have a job. If you do not have a religious leader your other parent may be listed. The educational one should be a teacher or instructor, or principal. The other two should be individuals who know you personally, perhaps neighbors, family friends, or your scoutmaster.

Eagle Scout Requirement 3

Earn a total of 21 Merit badges

Develop a plan to complete your merit badges. Set goals and deadlines.

Eagle Scout Requirement 4

While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of six months in one or more positions of responsibility in your troop, team, crew, or ship.

The position must be listed in the position of responsibility requirement shown in the most current edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, No. 34765. The requirement calls for a period of months. Any number of positions may be held as long as total service time equals at least the number of months required. Holding simultaneous positions does not shorten the required number of months. Positions need not flow from one to the other; there may be gaps between them.

If a unit has established expectations for positions of responsibility, and if, *within reason*, based on his personal skill set, the Scout meets them, he fulfills the requirement. When a Scout assumes a position, *something* related to the desired results must happen. It is a disservice to the Scout and to the unit to reward work that has not been done. Holding a position and doing nothing, producing no results, is unacceptable. Some degree of responsibility must be practiced, taken, or accepted.

Eagle Scout 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 must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) A project proposal must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your unit leader and unit committee, and the council or district before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, No. 512-927, in meeting this requirement.

Project Purpose

In addition to providing service and fulfilling the part of the Scout Oath, "to help other people at all times," one of the primary purposes of the Eagle Scout service project is to demonstrate or hone, or to learn and develop, leadership skills. Related to this are important lessons in project management and taking responsibility for a significant accomplishment.

Choosing a Project

Your project must be for any religious institution, any school, or your community. It is important to note, however, that the Boy Scouts of America has recently redefined "your community" to include the "community of the world." Normally, "your community" would not refer to individuals, although a council or district advancement committee may consider scenarios in which an individual in need can affect a community. It is then a matter of identifying a source representing the "community" who will provide approvals. For more information, see the *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088, section 9.0.2.5.

Your project must present an opportunity for planning, development, and leadership. For example, if a blood drive is chosen and the blood bank provides a set of "canned" instructions to be implemented with no further planning, the planning effort would not meet the test. You may need to meet with blood bank officials and work out an approach that requires planning, development, and leadership. This might involve developing and carrying out a marketing and logistics plan, or coordinating multiple events.

An Internet search can reveal hundreds of service project ideas. Your project doesn't have to be original, but it could be. It might be a construction, conservation, or remodeling project, or it could be the presentation of an event with a worthwhile purpose. Conversations with your unit leader, teachers, your religious leader, or the leaders of various community organizations can also uncover ideas. In any case, be sure the project presents a challenge that requires leadership, but also something that you can do with unskilled helpers, and within a reasonable period of time.

Restrictions

- There are no required minimum hours for a project. No one may tell you how many hours must be spent on it.
- Routine labor is not normally appropriate for a project. This might be defined as a job or service you may provide as part of your daily life, or a routine maintenance job normally done by the beneficiary (for example, pulling weeds on the football field at your school.)
- While projects may not be of a commercial nature or for a business, this is not meant to disallow work for community institutions, such as museums and service agencies (like homes for the elderly, for example), that would otherwise be acceptable. Some aspect of a business operation provided as a community service may also be considered—for example, a park open to the public that happens to be owned by a business.

- A project may not be a fundraiser. In other words, it may not be an effort that primarily collects money, even for a worthy charity. Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and facilitating a project, and it may need to be approved by your council. See "Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application" on page 17.
- No more than one Eagle Scout candidate may receive credit for working on the same Eagle Scout service project.
- Projects may not be performed for the Boy Scouts of America, or its councils, districts, units, or properties.

Preparing the Project Proposal

Your proposal must be completed first. It is an overview, but also the beginnings of planning. It shows your unit leader, unit committee, and council or district that the following tests can be met. For your proposal to be approved, it must show the following:

It provides sufficient opportunity to meet the Eagle Scout service project requirement. You must show that planning, development, and leadership will take place; and how the three factors will benefit a religious institution, a school, or your community.

It appears to be feasible. You must show the project is realistic for you to complete.

Safety issues will be addressed. You must show you have an understanding of what must be done to guard against injury, and what will be done if someone does get hurt.

Action steps for further detailed planning are included. You must make a list of the key steps you will take to make sure your plan has enough details to be carried out successfully.

You are on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

Your proposal need only be detailed enough to show a reviewer that you can meet the tests above. If you find in order to do that, the proposal must be lengthy and complicated, your project might be more complex than necessary.

If your project does not require materials or supplies, etc., simply mark those spaces "not applicable."

Remember, do not begin any work or raise any money or obtain any materials until your project proposal has been approved. If you submit your proposal too close to your 18th birthday, it may not be approved in time to finish planning and executing the project.

The Final Plan

Complete the Eagle Scout Service Project Final Plan after your proposal has been approved. This is a tool for your use—*no one approves it*—and it can be important in showing your Eagle Scout board of review that you have planned and developed your project as required. For this reason you are ***strongly encouraged*** to share the final plan with a project coach. This might be the council or district person who approved your proposal, or perhaps someone who has agreed to work with you. A coach can help you avoid many problems associated with service projects, and thus improve your chance of passing the Eagle board of review. If materials, etc., were not needed, mark those spaces "not applicable."

The Fundraising Application

If your fundraising effort involves contributions ***only*** from the beneficiary or you, your parents or relatives, your unit or its chartered organization, or parents or members in your unit, submitting the fundraising application is not necessary. If you will be obtaining money or materials from any other sources, you must submit a completed application to the local council service center. For more information, see "Procedures and Limitations on Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising" on page 18.

The Project Report

Complete this portion after the project has been finished. Note the space for you to sign (confirming that you led and completed the project), and also the signature lines for the beneficiary and your unit leader's approval that your project met Eagle Scout requirement 5. As with the proposal and final plan, if materials, etc., were not required, mark those spaces "not applicable."

Eagle Scout Requirement 6

Take part in a unit leader (scoutmaster) conference. Write 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.

(Eagle Scout Requirement 6 continued)

By this time you should be comfortable with a scoutmaster conference. This one may be more intense than prior ones. Be Prepared!

The statement of your ambitions and life purpose should explain where you're headed in life. What you want to do; Education, job, family. How will you impact the future?

The list of leadership positions are to be from outside of scouting. They should explain your involvement in other groups and organizations. Are you a well rounded and involved individual outside of scouting?

"All of the above need to be completed prior to your 18th birthday"

After your scoutmaster conference you should sign the application and request the signatures of your unit leader (scoutmaster, coach or advisor) and the unit committee chair. If either or both refuse to sign you should contact your district advancement chair immediately.

Your Eagle Application, letter of ambitions and life purpose, list of Leadership positions, and your Eagle Scout Service Project workbook in a three ring binder (complete original version including your project report) should be turned in to the council office for their verification. The recommendation letters will be mailed to the names you listed. All of the documentation will then go to your district advancement chair who will schedule your Eagle board of Review.

Eagle Board of Review

The board will consist of a maximum of six members with a minimum of two district committee members, and two troop committee members. The other two may be additional persons from the troop, the district, or they may be from the community.

You should arrive at the appointed time, waiting outside of the room while the board reviews the paperwork, reference letters, and final project report. Bring your scout handbook with you.

It is preferred a Scout be in full field uniform for any board of review. He should wear as much of it as he owns, and it should be as correct as possible, with the badges worn properly. It may be the uniform as the members of his troop, team, crew, or ship wear it. If wearing all or part of the uniform is impractical for whatever reason, the candidate should be clean and neat in his appearance and dressed appropriately, according to his means, for the milestone marked by the occasion. Regardless of unit expectations or rules, boards of review may not reject candidates dressed to this description; neither may they require the purchase of uniforming, or clothing such as coats and ties.

Your unit leader should be present to introduce you to the board. Your unit leader may remain in the room but does not participate in the review unless called upon.

You should be prepared to recite the Scout Oath and Law.

You should be prepared to discuss your ambitions, life purpose, leadership positions in and out of scouting, and your Eagle Service Project without notes.

This will be an in-depth interview and could last as long as an hour. You will be doing most of the talking so "Be Prepared".

At the end of the interview you and your unit leader will be excused from the room. The board will discuss the acceptability of you as an Eagle Scout. The decision must be unanimous. You will return to the room and be informed of the board's decision.

If the board votes to recommend you for the Rank of Eagle, the documentation will be signed and returned to the council office where it will be reviewed and signed by the council scout executive and forwarded to the national office.

If the decision of the board is not to recommend you for the rank of Eagle you will be told the reasons for your failure to qualify and the appeal process will be explained.