The Trail to Eagle

Life to Eagle

A Cradle of Liberty Council
Advancement & Recognition Committee Presentation

Revised 3-28-2017
Welcome and Introductions
Seminar Objectives

• Review the requirements for Eagle
• Discuss the Eagle leadership Service Project
• Review the Eagle application process
• Discuss the Eagle Board of Review
• Discuss the Eagle Court of Honor and Recognitions
• Understand time commitment
• Answer questions

AVOID SURPRISES!
Eagle Can Be Earned as a Member of...

- Troop
- Venturing Crew*
- Sea Scout Ship*

* Venturer or Sea Scout can earn Eagle after having earned First Class while in a Troop / Team
Official Resources

- *Guide to Advancement, 33088*
- *Scouts BSA Requirements (current year)*
  - Updated annually
  - Rank advancement and merit badge requirement changes effective January 1
- *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, 512-927*
- [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)
  - Requirements on website
- [www.colbsa.org](http://www.colbsa.org)
  - Eagle Packet: instructions, workbook, application
- [www.nesa.org](http://www.nesa.org)
Unofficial Resources

• US Scouting Service Project
  – www.usscouts.org
• www.meritbadge.org
• www.eaglescout.org
• Be careful – good resource materials, but confirm with official resources
Eagle Requirements
Eagle Requirements

• Active as a Life Scout 6 months
• Merit badges 21 minimum
• Position of responsibility 6 mo. while Life Scout
• Eagle service project
• Live by Scout Oath & Law in daily life (Scout spirit)
• Scoutmaster conference
• Eagle board of review
18th Birthday

MUST be completed before 18th Birthday
• All requirements except Board of Review

MAY be completed after 18th Birthday
• Your paperwork
• Your board of review
• Your court of honor

Exception
• A Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout with a disability may work toward rank advancement after he is 18 years of age.
What is Active?

- Registered in his unit (registration fees are current)
- Not dismissed from his unit for disciplinary reasons
- Meets unit’s **reasonable** pre-established expectations
  - If not, a lesser level of activity is explained
- Alternative to third test if expectations are not met
  - See next slide

Reference: Guide to Advancement Section 4.2.3.1
What is Active? (Cont’d)

• Alternative to third test if expectations are not met
  – Consider other positive endeavors – in or out of Scouting – or noteworthy circumstances
  – Not so much what Scout has done, but what he is able to do and how he has grown
  – Board of Review must take into account youth should be allowed balance with positive activities outside of Scouting

• Six months of activity do not need to be consecutive
13 Required Merit Badges

- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Cooking
- Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
- Environmental Science or Sustainability
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Swimming or Hiking or Cycling
Merit Badge Time Requirements

• Three merit badges say:
  – Meet with your counselor first
  – Keep records for three months

• No counselor can add, subtract, alter requirements

• Meet with counselor AT LEAST three months before 18th birthday
Alternate Merit Badges

• Alternate merit badges available for those with a permanent physical or mental disability
  – Or disability expected to last more than two years or beyond 18th birthday

• Complete “Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges” (available on Council website)

• Need medical statement or evaluation statement

• Approved by District and Council Advancement Committees
Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility

• Disability must be documented as permanent and severe
• Arrangement is permanent; not an extension of time to earn a rank
• Process applies in all BSA programs from Cub Scouting through Venturing and Sea Scouts
• Council Advancement & Recognition Committee must approve
• Guide to Advancement, Topics 10.1.0.0 & 10.1.0.2
Position of Responsibility

• Position must be chosen from those listed in *Scouts BSA Requirements*
• The required six months may involve more than one position
• Meet *established* unit expectations
  – Can’t be held to unestablished expectations
• Can be removed from position
• Once served, time should count

*Reference: Guide to Advancement Section 4.2.3.4*
Applicable Troop Leadership Positions

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Asst. Sr. Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide
- Troop OA Representative
- Den Chief
- Troop Scribe
- Troop Librarian
- Troop Historian
- Troop Quartermaster
- Jr. Asst. Scoutmaster
- Chaplain Aide
- Instructor
- WebMaster
- Outdoor Ethics Guide

Patrol QM, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Scribe do not count
Crew, Ship, Lone Scout Leadership

• Similar positions for those earning Eagle Scout through a Crew, Ship
• Leadership responsibility in school, religious organization, club, or elsewhere in community for Lone Scout
• Specific positions listed on Eagle Application
The Eagle Scout Service Project
Eagle Scout Service Project

• Project ideas
• Proposal / Plan
• Approvals
• Execute project
• Final report
Eagle Scout Service Project

• Purpose
  – Demonstrate leadership to others

• Who Benefits?
  – Community, school, religious organization
  – Not BSA
  – Not a commercial business

• Cannot be a fund raiser
  – May raise funds to pay for project
  – Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application

• Must be planned and led by one Scout
  – No joint projects
  – Project may follow-up on a previous project
Service Project Timing

• Plan ahead
  – Lack of prior planning on Scout’s part does not constitute an emergency on the part of others

• May begin as soon as Life scout
  – Don’t need all 21 merit badges first

• Record keeping starts right away
  – Project planning efforts
  – Hours involved
Sample Eagle Projects

- Clean debris and paint a room at hospice (if non-profit)
- Landscape playground at a school
- Reconstruct park trail
- Build a fence behind park police station
- Repaint Sunday School rooms, clear basement
- Replace I Bolts and deck of Boat House Row dock
- Place tree identification signs on 50 trees at the Arboretum
Service Project Planning

• Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook
  – Use ONLY the official BSA workbook
    – Fillable pdf with expandable text boxes; can add images
    – Can add pages for more information / photos

• READ ENTIRE WORKBOOK
  – Before starting
  – Several times throughout process

• No minimum number of hours
  – Project needs to be of sufficient effort for a Scout to demonstrate leadership

• Does not need to have lasting value

• Recommend using three-ring binder to keep pages together (but check with your district)
Service Project Coach

• Work with an adult coach / advisor (following youth protection guidelines)
  – Knowledgeable about process
  – Provide guidance
  – Leadership by Scout

• Recommend troop assign someone to work with all unit Eagle candidates
Service Project Workbook


- Note: Do not attempt to open this workbook in a browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.) or in programs such as Nuance PDF Converter. The workbook was created in Adobe LiveCycle, which must be saved to your computer and opened with Adobe Reader 9 or later. This enables the user to take advantage of the enhancements of expandable text boxes and importing images.
Service Project Workbook

- Key Sections to be completed
- Project Proposal (Requires district pre-approval)
- Project Plan (Does not require approval)
- Project Fundraising Application (Requires district approval, if needed)
- Project Report (needed for Board of Review)
Service Project Proposal

Fourteen Sections to be completed

- Contact Information
- Project Description and Benefit
  - Include sketches or photos
- Giving Leadership
- Materials
- Supplies
- Tools
- Other Needs
- Permits and Permissions
- Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Project Phases
- Logistics
- Safety Issues
- Project Planning
- Candidate’s Promise
Service Project Proposal

Required Approvals

• Four approvals / signatures required BEFORE starting project
  • Project beneficiary / sponsor
    – Unit leader
      • Scoutmaster / Advisor / Skipper
      • Not the Eagle coach / advisor
    – Unit committee
    – District Eagle project reviewer/ board
Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Project

1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement.
2. The project appears to be feasible.
3. Safety issues will be addressed.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.
5. The young person is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.
Eagle Project Risk Management

- The Unit Committee, Beneficiary and Eagle Candidate must consider safety and health risks before starting an Eagle Project
- Use the Guide to Safe Scouting for a list of age appropriate tools and elevations
- Use two-deep leadership and follow YPT
- While the Eagle Candidate takes the lead on project planning, adults are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of all that participate on Eagle Projects
Project Fundraising Application

- Used to request approval to raise funds to complete project.
  - Includes requests for in-kind donations such as supplies or materials
  - If an Eagle Scout candidate is offered a discount, gift cards, or scrap or left over materials for his project, **without solicitation on his part**, he is allowed to accept it and an Application is not required.

- Funds are raised on behalf of project beneficiary, not unit or BSA
  - Receipts to donors need to come from project beneficiary
  - Beneficiary retains any excess funds, materials, etc.

- Approved by the District Advancement Committee

*Fundraising Guidelines / Clarifications available in Life to Eagle Packet on colbsa.org.*
Service Project Plan

• Plan is for the scout’s use; it does not need to be approved or signed
• The Plan guides the scout in planning and developing his project and can help avoid problems in implementation.
• Review of Plan can improve chances of a successful Eagle Scout Board of Review
Service Project Execution

• Eagle candidate demonstrates leadership
  – Labor can be youth and/or adult
  – Labor not required to be other Scouts
    • But is a good idea
• Record hours worked
• Note changes to project plan
• Take pictures
Service Project Report

• Description
• Observations
• Changes
• Leadership
• Materials, Supplies, Tools
• Service Project Data (hours worked)
• Funding Summary
• Photos and other Documentation
Service Project Post – Project Signatures

• Eagle candidate promise
• Unit Leader
  • Scoutmaster / Advisor / Skipper
    • Not the Eagle Project Coach / Advisor
• Project beneficiary
  – Project completed to beneficiary’s satisfaction
The Eagle Rank Application Process
• Complete all requirements
• Complete service project workbook, with signatures
• Complete Eagle Scout application
  – Download form Scoutbook that is already populated with merit badges earned, rank dates and other advancement information
  – Fill out completely
• Prepare statement of life goals / awards
• Obtain unit leader and committee chair signatures
  – Special procedures in place if unit leader or committee chair does not approve application
References*

- Scout lists six references on application
  - Five if no employer
  - Parent if no organized religious association
  - Check with references first
- District contacts references OR
- District may request Scout to deliver information / envelope to reference
  - Scout CANNOT be involved in transmitting correspondence from reference.
- Scout not required to make follow-up contact

*Details of council policy on references available in Life to Eagle Packet on colbsa.org.*
Documentation

• Council records are complete and accurate as long as advancement information has been recorded using Scoutbook or Internet Advancement 2.0
• Print out advancement report from Scoutbook or Internet Advancement 2.0
  – Check against Scout’s / Troop’s records
    • Troop’s software printout
    • Merit badge blue cards / recognition cards
    • Rank recognition cards
• Check that all documentation agrees
• Resolve discrepancies **BEFORE** submitting application
Eagle Application Processing

• Submit application, with project workbook and statement of life goals, to Council
  – Scout, parents, or troop leader
  – Keep a copy of EVERYTHING submitted
• Council verifies Scout’s records
• Council gives packet to District Advancement Committee
  – Contacts references, obtains reference letters from unit leader or council
  – Schedules Board of Review
The Eagle Scout Board of Review
Board of Review Procedures

• Three to six members on board
  – Need not be registered Scouters
  – Need to understand significance of Eagle
• One Scout at a time
• No family members in attendance
• Unit leader introduces Scout and may observe, but not participate
• Granting Eagle rank must be unanimous
• Mock or practice BORs discouraged
Appearing Before the Board of Review

• Preferred that Scout wear full field (aka Class A) uniform
  – Clean and tidy with all patches securely in place
  – May be the uniform as members of unit wear it
  – Merit badge sash worn over shoulder
  – No hat or OA sash
  – Can’t be required to purchase uniforms or specific clothing such as coat and tie
• It is not a re-test of knowledge or skills
• Should last about 30 minutes, rarely more than 45
Appearing Before the Board of Review

• Be prepared to discuss
  – Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan
  – Your Scouting career including merit badges
  – Your service project
  – Your leadership experiences
  – Affect on your civic responsibilities
  – Scout spirit
Last Round of Paperwork

- Date of the Board of Review is date of Eagle Rank
- The Board signs the Eagle Application
- Application and Life Statement turned in to the Council office
- The Project Workbook is returned to the Scout
- Letters or notes of references are destroyed
  - No one to see letters or notes other than the EBOR
  - If Eagle rank not granted, keep letters as they may be needed as part of an appeal
The Waiting Game

- Council enters information into Scoutnet
- National Council in Texas reviews and verifies
- National Council notifies local Council when approved
- Scoutmaster receives a blue postcard when certificate and Eagle kit are available
- THEN you can schedule the Court of Honor
If Eagle Rank is Denied

• Board has discussion with Scout
  – Explain why rank was denied and how he may meet the requirements, if not too late
  – Explain appeal process

• Board sends a follow-up letter to Scout confirming the discussion and detailing the reasons for denial
Appeal Process

• Scout (or his parents) must initiate appeal
  – In writing, signed by Scout or parents
  – Provide detailed reason for requesting appeal
• Appeal sent to Council Advancement Committee
• CAC routes request as appropriate
  – District Appeal Board for unit-level BOR
  – Council Appeal Board for district BOR
• Until appeal is made, Eagle board chair keeps all documentation
  – Eagle board chair transfers documentation to appeals board upon request
The Eagle Court of Honor
Planning the Court of Honor

• Special ceremony to recognize only Eagle Scout
• Conduct only after National approval
• Planned and carried out by Troop and parents
  – No required format
  – A banquet is not required
  – Agreement on split of responsibilities / cost
  – Consider troop traditions
  – Check online for ideas
    • www.eaglescout.org
Things to Consider

- Who to invite? Remember public officials
- Date and time to accommodate special guests
- Agenda
- Location
- Reception decorations & refreshments
- Letters, certificates and citations from public officials (request two months in advance)
- Photo album / display of Scouting career
Eagle Scout Recognitions
Recognition Kit

• Cradle of Liberty Council provides (free of charge) a recognition kit for Court of Honor
  – Eagle Scout badge
  – Eagle Scout medal
  – Father’s pin
  – Mother’s pin
  – Mentor’s pin
Eagle Recognition Dinner

- Annual dinner honoring Eagle Scouts of prior calendar year
  - Usually in May or June
- After registering, will be asked to submit photos of the project
- Scouts matched to a sponsor
  - Sponsor pays for Scout’s dinner
- Parents / unit leaders invited to attend
  - paying the regular dinner price
We Salute the Future Eagle Scouts of Cradle of Liberty Council