

Advancement Education

BSA

Prepared. For Life.®

Life to Eagle



This course is for those **Life Scouts** seeking the rank of **Eagle Scout**. It reviews the process and procedures to progress from the rank of **Life Scout** to **Eagle Scout** with concentration on completing the Eagle Service Project.

Agenda

- ✦ Introduction: Council and District Advancement; Process Overview
- ✦ Eagle Scout Rank Requirements
- ✦ Eagle Scout Application
- ✦ Eagle Scout Board of Review
- ✦ Eagle Scout Service Project: *A Process Unto Itself*
- ✦ Eagle Project Extras: Coach, Fundraising, Evaluation, and Risk Management

Council Advancement Committee

♣ Chairs: Mark Oetinger & Kevin Volk

♣ Staff Adviser: Karl Ziegenfus

♣ District Advancement Chairs:

Great Trails: Vacant

North Star: John Maier john.g.maier@gmail.com

North Star: Mark Oetinger markoetinger1@gmail.com

Voyageur: Chris Czesak czesakc@gmail.com

Whitetail: Daniel Wincenciak wincendf@gmail.com

Council Advancement Committee

♣ District Advancement Chairs Cont'd.:

Scenic Trails: vacant

Winding Rivers: vacant

♣ District Eagle Chairs:

Scenic Trails: Peter Reif silverfawneaglebor@gmail.com

Winding Rivers: Keith Klug klugkeith@gmail.com

Winding Rivers: Greg Hughey endlessmountaineagle@yahoo.com

Whitetail: Dave Talarico talaricodave@aol.com

The 12 Steps from Life to Eagle

These twelve steps are meant to ensure a smooth process for all involved—not just the Scout, but parents, leaders, and district volunteers:

1. Candidate completes all requirements
 - ♣ Requirements may be completed in any order
2. Candidate selects and gets approval for Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal
 - ♣ Approval comes from unit leader, unit committee, beneficiary, and district (district signature is *last*)

The 12 Steps from Life to Eagle

3. Review and complete the Eagle Rank application

- ♣ All requirements (except board of review) must be completed by candidate's 18th birthday
- ♣ The Application itself may be submitted later
- ♣ Check information *thoroughly* before submission

4. Get the needed signatures on the Application

- ♣ Candidate may still proceed if anyone refuses to sign: contact the advancement committee if that happens

5. Contact the references on the Application

- ♣ Candidate shouldn't wait until everything else is done before asking for references

The 12 Steps from Life to Eagle

6. Remember to include completed Eagle Project Workbook signature pages with application
 - ♣ Candidate may still proceed if anyone refuses to sign: contact the advancement committee if that happens
7. Submit the Application, Workbook signature pages, and Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose to the Council Eagle Verification E-mail:
 - ♣ EagleVerification@gfcscouting.org
8. Schedule a date for the Eagle Board of Review
 - ♣ Procedures for this vary by district

The 12 Steps from Life to Eagle

9. Candidate completes Eagle Board of Review
 - ✦ *At least* one district representative must be present
 - ✦ Approval must be ***unanimous—everyone must agree***
10. Post-Review, submit signed application to council
11. Council Executive forwards Application to National
 - ✦ Workbook and references stay with council
12. After National approves, Eagle credentials arrive at the local council
 - ✦ The council won't release Eagle insignia until this happens, so the Eagle ceremony should not be scheduled until then

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

1. Be active in your troop for at least six months as a Life Scout.

What counts as 'active'?

- ♣ You need to be *registered with the unit*
- ♣ You need to be *in good standing*
 - This is a disciplinary thing: if there's an issue here, you'll know it
- ♣ You need to *meet the unit's reasonable expectations*
 - These expectations must be documented and known in advance
 - Summers off still count; Scouting is year-round
 - If you don't meet the expectation, there is an alternative

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

2. As a Life Scout, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Tell:

- ✦ How you have done your duty to God,
- ✦ How you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life, and
- ✦ How your understanding of the Scout Oath and Scout Law will guide your life in the future.

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

3. Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than required for Life rank), including these 13 badges:

Camping
Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Communication
Cooking

Emergency Preparedness *OR* Lifesaving
Environmental Science *OR* Sustainability
Family Life
First Aid
Personal Fitness
Personal Management
Swimming *OR* Hiking *OR* Cycling

- If you've earned them, you may use the alternative badges of the OR choices in place of non-required badges to fill up the list of 21

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

4. While a Life Scout, serve actively in your troop for six months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility:

Patrol Leader

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

Senior Patrol Leader

Troop Guide

OA Troop Representative

Den Chief

Scribe

Librarian

Historian

Quartermaster

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

Chaplain Aide

Instructor

Webmaster

Outdoor Ethics Guide

- Note: Assistant Patrol Leader is ***not*** on this list!

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

4. (Continued)

What counts as active service?

- ♣ *Something* related to the desired results must happen
- ♣ This is best achieved when the unit lays out *clear and reasonable* expectations for the position
- ♣ If no expectations exist, then the Scout or leader (or ideally, both) must work out the responsibilities
- ♣ In any case, Scouts may not be held to expectations that they haven't been told

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

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 Scouting America.

- ✦ Your troop's chartering organization is a valid beneficiary: the restriction is against the council and its properties (such as its camps and offices).

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

5. (Continued)

Before you start, the project proposal must be approved by:

- ✦ the organization benefiting from the effort (beneficiary),
- ✦ your unit leader (Scoutmaster or equivalent),
- ✦ your unit committee, and
- ✦ the council or district.

You must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, Scouting America publication No. 512-927, in meeting this requirement.

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

6. While a Life Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.
 - ✦ Though many Scoutmasters like to use this as a sort of final capstone, there is no requirement that this be the last thing done before the Board of Review.
 - ✦ It is also possible to have several conferences, especially if you had several years between earning Life and Eagle. You may choose any of them for this requirement.
 - ✦ In any case, you must complete this and all previous requirements before your 18th birthday.

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

7. Successfully complete your board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.

♣ **This may be done up to 24 months after age 18.**

The board will be composed as follows:

There shall be no fewer than three and no more than six members, all at least 21 years old. They need not be on an advancement committee or registered with the BSA, but must *not* include or be selected by the Scout's unit leaders (meaning Scoutmasters) or relatives.

There must be at least one district representative—who is not affiliated with the unit—present. The unit may request more than one.

Completing the Application

Here are a few tips to make your application easy to process:

- ❖ Be certain that you're using the current version
 - The version date is on the lower right corner
- ❖ Cross out merit badges not earned
 - This refers to the **either/or** choices from requirement 3: cross out the ones that you didn't choose.
 - On electronic applications, you can do this with the highlighter tool set to black

512-728
January 2026 Revision

es (required badges are listed). List the month, day

UNIT NO.	MERIT BADGE	E
	*8 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	
	*9 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	
	10 FIRST AID	
	*11 [REDACTED] HIKING	
	12 PERSONAL MANAGEMENT	
	13 PERSONAL FITNESS	
	14 FAMILY LIFE	

Completing the Application

- ❖ Include all references
 - You are *required* to provide information for all four
 - You may provide contact information, ask your references to serve as references, and give them the form to complete or provide the link to the online reference form on the Council Advancement website
 - You don't have to wait to start soliciting your references
 - Parents provide contact information *only*, not a reference

REQUIREMENT 2. As a Life Scout, demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life and tell how you have done your duty to God. List the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf.

	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Parents/Guardians				
Reference #1				
Reference #2				
Reference #3				
Reference #4				

Completing the Application

- ❖ Who may serve as a reference?
 - Let's start with who is excluded: You may not use your current unit leader or committee chair, because their signatures on the application are their endorsement of your character.
 - You may use a parent, but are *strongly discouraged* from doing so.
 - After that, they are free for you to choose: there are no other restrictions and *anyone* may serve as a reference, including a sibling or other relative, a friend at school, a past Scout leader (*not* your current unit leader), a family friend, a neighbor, or even a boyfriend/girlfriend
 - The key is to find people who know you well, can speak to your character, and will *fill out the recommendation!*

Completing the Application

- ❖ Fill out everything completely
 - For your position of responsibility, be sure that you *only* list time when you were a Life Scout; if the term for your position began while you were a Star Scout, then your start date for this requirement is the date of your Life Scout Board of Review
 - Seriously, don't put down dates prior to your Life Board of Review. The council office will mark up your application, send it back, and/or scold you for not following directions
 - The Board of Review will see that, too, and know that you weren't mentally awake: really, please, do it right the first time
 - Don't forget to include the Eagle Project hours: this is the sum of total hours worked, which is your planning time plus worker time for every volunteer worker

Completing the Application

- ❖ The Eagle Rank Application can also be generated in Scoutbook
 - Log into Scoutbook
 - Go to the Scout
 - Click on *Reports*
 - Select *Eagle Application*
 - Don't forget to *sign* it!
- ❖ Remember that the deadline is to complete the *rank requirements* by age 18. You may submit the application afterwards

Eagle Scout Board of Review

Scout *should* be in full uniform

- ♣ While the uniform is preferred, the requirement is to be neat in appearance and dressed appropriately according to the Scout's means

All paperwork *should* be in order with proper signatures

- ♣ The office verifies this before scheduling the Board of Review

Eagle Scout Board of Review

(Continued)

Paperwork includes :

- ♣ Eagle Application
- ♣ Eagle Project Workbook
- ♣ Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose
 - This is exactly what it says it is: it's not asking why you want to be an Eagle Scout or what Eagle means to you. It asks what you want to do with your life.
 - This does not need to be a detailed plan. Think of it as a proposal for the *ultimate* Eagle project: when you live out your life, what major goals do you want accomplish, and how will your community benefit?

Eagle Scout Board of Review

(Continued)

♣ Reference Letters

- If, after a diligent effort, the Scout cannot obtain four references, the review may go forward without them
- The Scout will not be denied advancement solely because of unresponsive references
- However, the Board may ask about the Scout's efforts to obtain references during the review
- National recommends that the Scout begin soliciting references *months* before the anticipated review date; remember, *you* have the deadline, not them, so give them plenty of lead time
- Reference letters are destroyed after the review; only members of the Board of Review are allowed to see them

Website Resources

Eagle Rank



- Eagle Scout Rank Application, See [Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Discontinuance](#) for a recent update to Eagle Scout requirements



- Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook
- National Eagle Scout Association Scholarship Applications
- National Eagle Scout Association Membership Application
- Spirit of the Eagle Application



- Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges
- Duplicate Eagle Scout/NESA credentials

<https://www.scouting.org/resources/forms/>

Advancement Education

BSA

Prepared. For Life.®

The Eagle Scout Service Project

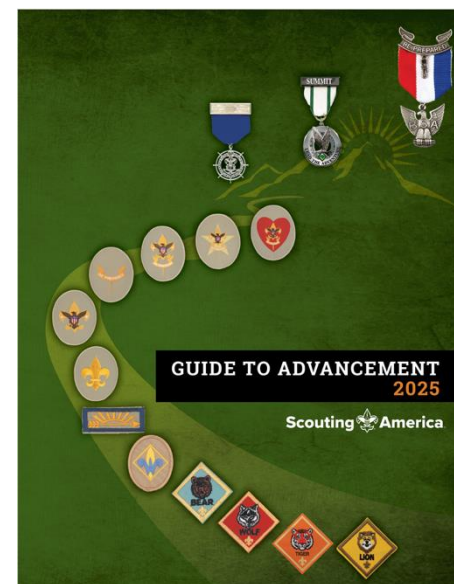
Guide to Advancement Section 9

National Scouts BSA Advancement Team

Expiration Date

This presentation is not to be used after January 31, 2027.

Obtain an updated version at www.scouting.org/advancement



The Eagle Scout Service Project

GTA 9.0.2.0

- ✦ Proposing, conducting and reporting on projects should be a positive experience for the Scout.
- ✦ The focus and energy for the project is meaningful service while practicing leadership skills.
- ✦ Administrative issues are merely supportive of this meaningful service.
- ✦ Only one Eagle Scout candidate receives credit.

The Eagle Scout Service Project

What an Eagle Scout Candidate Should Expect

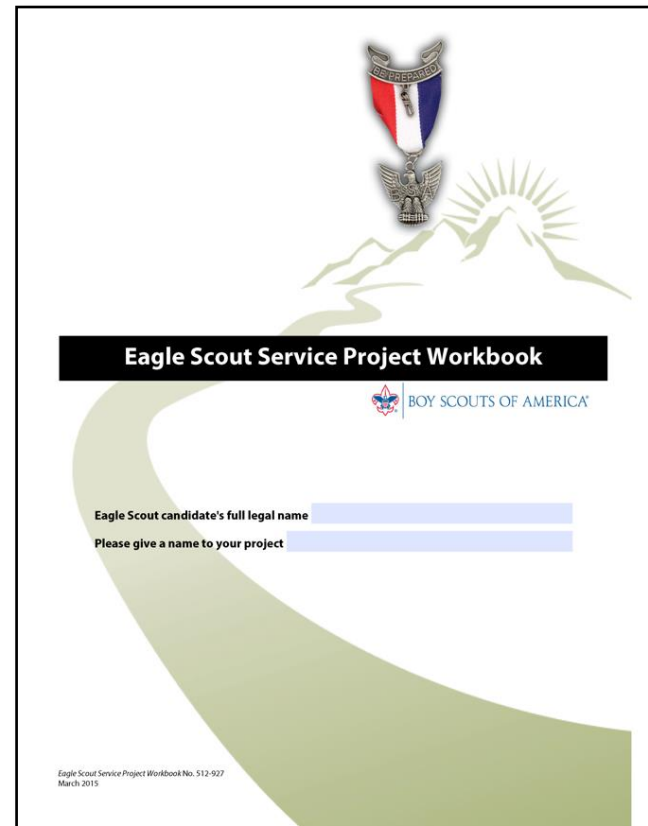
GTA 9.0.2.1

- ❖ Questioning shall be conducted in a *helpful, friendly, courteous* and *kind-hearted* manner.
- ❖ A parent or other observer may be present during reviews.
- ❖ Project expectations are stated in Eagle Scout Requirement 5.
- ❖ If requested, a written explanation must be given for any proposal rejection.

The Eagle Scout Service Project

What an Eagle Scout Candidate Should Expect

- ❖ Guidance should be readily available.
- ❖ If a candidate believes they have been mistreated or the proposal was wrongfully rejected, they will be provided a method of redress.



Eagle Scout Service Project

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

GTA 9.0.2.2 – 9.0.2.4

- ♣ 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 Scouting America.*)
- ♣ A project proposal must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, the unit leader, the unit committee, and the council or district before a Scout starts.
- ♣ A Scout must use the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, No. 512-927, in meeting this requirement.

Eagle Scout Service Project

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

♣ **“While a Life Scout...”**

Work on the project, including planning, begins after the Life Scout Board of Review. (9.0.2.2)

♣ **“Plan, Develop...”**

Planning and development are detailed once a project proposal is approved. (9.0.2.3)

♣ **A proposal is different from a plan.**

Eagle Scout Service Project

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

- ✦ **“Give Leadership to Others...”**
“Others” means at least two people besides the Scout.
(9.0.2.4)
- ✦ Each project must be evaluated case by case on its impact to the benefiting organization and on lessons that will advance the candidate’s growth. (9.0.2.4)
- ✦ Councils, districts and units shall not establish requirements for the number of people led, or their makeup, or for the time worked on a project. (9.0.2.4)

Eagle Scout Service Project

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

- ✦ **“Helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community.” (9.0.2.5)**
 - “Your community” can mean the world community. A council may emphasize more local efforts but should not deny worthy projects of a wider scope.
 - Scenarios where an individual in need can affect a community may be considered.
- ✦ **“Benefit an organization other than Scouting America”. (9.0.2.6)**

Eagle Scout Service Project

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

- ♣ **“Proposal must be approved...before you start”**
(9.0.2.7)
- ♣ Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Scout Service Project:
 1. Sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement.
 2. Appears to be feasible.
 3. Safety issues will be addressed.
 4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.
 5. The Scout has a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

Eagle Scout Project Workbook

GTA 9.0.2.8

- ✦ The workbook cannot be modified.
- ✦ If properly used, the workbook very nearly assures success.
- ✦ Should not be used as a source for rejecting candidates based on “technicalities”.
- ✦ Write-ups and signatures are simply supportive.
- ✦ Keeps the Scout on the right track with a reasonable chance for success and a positive experience.
- ✦ The current official document must be used.
www.scouting.org/advancement.

Eagle Scout Service Project Coach

GTA 9.0.2.9

- ❖ Coaches must be registered with the BSA, in any position and be current in BSA Youth Protection training.
- ❖ A project coach is not required but highly recommended.
- ❖ Using a project coach is the Scout's decision.
- ❖ Coaches work in an advisory capacity.
- ❖ Coaches do not have the authority to dictate changes or withdraw approval.



Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising

GTA 9.0.2.10

- ❖ Projects themselves may not be fundraisers.
- ❖ Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and otherwise facilitating the project.
- ❖ Fundraising must be approved by the council unless funds are derived only from contributions by the beneficiary, the candidate, their relatives, the unit, its chartered organization, or from parents or members of the unit.
- ❖ Procedures and limitations for Eagle Scout service project fundraising can be found on the back of the fundraising application, inside the workbook.

Evaluating the Project After Completion

GTA 9.0.2.13

- ❖ Completed projects must be evaluated on impact – the extent of benefit to the benefiting organization and on the leadership provided.
- ❖ There must be evidence of planning and development.
- ❖ There may be cases where the unit leader or beneficiary choose not to approve the project.
- ❖ Sometimes a project is not completed as planned.

Risk Management and the Project

GTA 9.0.2.14

- ❖ All Eagle Scout service projects constitute official Scouting activity and are considered part of a unit's program.
- ❖ The health and safety of those working on Eagle projects must be incorporated into project execution. This is an adult responsibility.
- ❖ The *SAFE Project Tool Use* and the *Guide to Safe Scouting* should be consulted during project planning.

For More Information

- ✦ *Guide to Advancement*
- ✦ www.Scouting.org/advancement
- ✦ *Eagle Scout Rank Application*
- ✦ *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.*
- ✦ If you have questions, ask district and council advancement administrators first, then:
Advancement.team@scouting.org



Advancement Education

BSA

Prepared. For Life.®



Questions?