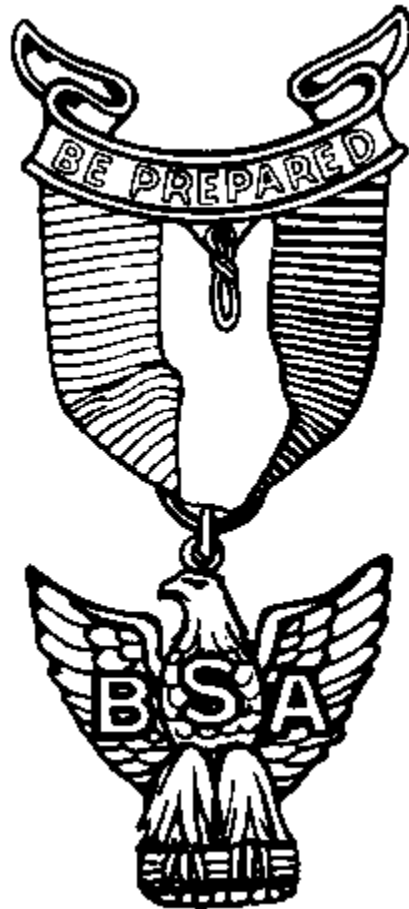


Eagle Rank Advancement Policies and Procedures



A Guide for Scouting Leaders and Parents

Prepared by

Circle Ten Council Advancement Committee

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Explanations and Commonly Expressed Concerns

About Eagle Rank Requirements

It is important for all Scouters to understand that the following policy of the Boy Scouts of America applies to all phases of the Scouting program including rank advancement:

No local council Cub Scouter, Varsity Scouter, Exploring leader, or Scouter shall have authority to increase or diminish requirements and standards established by the Corporation.

Article VI. Clause 4.

Bylaws, Boy Scouts of America

Eagle Requirement #1

Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout.

- As long as the Scout is active for six months after becoming a Life Scout, it is not required that he be active for the six month period immediately preceding his board of review for Eagle. Troops may not modify the requirements to require a Scout to be active for a consecutive six-month period, or require that the period must be immediately before the board of review.

When it is apparent that a Scout's participation has fallen below that deemed acceptable by the troop leadership, then the Scout should be contacted by the troop leadership and urged to resume participation in troop activities. He may be reminded that Scouting is a participatory organization and his lack of participation will negatively affect the troop and the other Scouts. However, as long as his unit registration fees are current, he has not been dismissed from the unit for disciplinary reasons; and the unit leadership has regularly engaged him through Scoutmaster conferences, he is considered to be active in his unit.

Eagle Requirement #2

Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.

- Scout spirit is defined as the Scout living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life. A Scout can be reminded, if necessary, that the term “everyday life” includes his activities in Scouting. A Scout who is a disciplinary problem in Scouting activities can fail to meet this requirement regardless of his performance in activities outside of Scouting. (The Scoutmaster Handbook recommends that living the Scout Oath and Law in a Scout’s everyday life be discussed at every Scoutmaster conference all along the Scouting advancement trail. This reinforces the idea of actually making these principles a part of a Scout’s daily habits, not just at troop meetings and activities.)
- When determining whether a Scout is living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life, it is important to realize that the Scout is human and may make mistakes, just like his troop leaders and those who will sit on his board of review. It is unreasonable to expect perfection, yet at the same time, if there are continuous concerns in this area, it is possible for a Scout to fail to meet this requirement.
- Many times, the troop’s only association with a Scout may be at troop meetings and campouts. The references for Eagle may be used as an indicator that the boy lives by Scouting’s principles in other areas of his life. District Advancement Committees may request that troops secure letters from the references to bring to the Eagle Board of Review. The Eagle candidate should have contacted individuals listed as references before including their names on the application. If desired, the District Advancement Committee may ask the candidate to deliver a blank reference form and envelope to the listed references. Please note that it is the responsibility of the troop adult leadership to secure the letters for the board of review, not the Eagle candidate. The national guidelines state that, *“The candidate should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as references ...and the advancement committee.”* If the initial letter or form is not returned in a timely manner, the district advancement committee should make direct contact with the reference(s) on its own, using the method of its choosing. All notes and letters, forms, and checklists pertaining to contact with the listed references should be retained by the District Advancement Committee after the board of review.
- When an Eagle candidate is told that he fails to demonstrate Scout spirit in his everyday life, it is commonly found that **the troop should have dealt with the issue earlier -- usually several ranks earlier.** A Scout who is not trustworthy or obedient usually doesn’t develop this problem just prior to the Eagle board of review. To postpone dealing with the problem until it becomes imperative to do so at Eagle advancement time is a disservice to the boy. However, the fact that it wasn’t dealt with does not exempt the Scout from fulfilling this requirement for Eagle.

Eagle Requirement #3

Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than you already have), including the following: (1) Camping, (2) Citizenship in the Community, (3) Citizenship in the Nation, (4) Citizenship in the World, (5) Communications, *(6) Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, (7) Environmental Science, (8) First Aid, *(9) Cycling OR Hiking OR Swimming, (10) Personal Management, (11) Personal Fitness, and (12) Family Life.

*** Scouts must choose only one merit badge listed in items (6) and (9). If they have earned more than one of the badges listed in (6) and (9), they must choose one to use as a required badge, and the optional badges may be listed to make the total of 21.**

- Eagle candidates cannot be required to earn merit badges other than those listed above.
- Once a Scout begins work on a merit badge, there is no maximum time limit under which he must complete the requirements of the badge other than his 18th birthday. Adding arbitrary time limits for completion of merit badges constitutes changing the requirements of the badge which is not within the authority of any unit, district, or council.
- While the merit badge program is designed to be a counselor-Scout relationship, under certain circumstances much benefit can be gained by utilizing expert personnel in group instruction conditions. This does not remove the requirement, however, that credit for the badge cannot take place without individual review of the Scout by the counselor to ensure understanding of the concepts and completion of the badge's requirements. Merely attending a class should not result in the award of the merit badge.
- All merit badges must be earned with an approved merit badge counselor. According to Clause 13, Article X. of the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, "*The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badge counselor approved by the local council and district advancement committee. Merit badge counselors shall be registered adult members of the Boy Scouts of America.*"
- All merit badge counselors must fill out a second leader application with a code "42" designation. This includes Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters and troop committee members. This is a BSA national policy.
- Because merit badge counselors are called upon only infrequently to counsel for a badge, there is no fee to register with the BSA. Some counselors may go months or a year without being called upon. To register as a merit badge counselor, a person writes the number "42" in the position code space on the application. The application is then submitted to the troop committee (or directly to the District Advancement Committee if recruited by the district). Upon being submitted to the troop committee, it is necessary that the committee review the application at a regularly scheduled troop committee meeting, and take whatever measures are necessary to conclude that there are no discernible reasons to keep the person from working with boys. This could include checking references listed by the person on their application.
- Once a person's application is approved by the troop committee, the troop is then responsible to submit the person's name to the District Advancement Committee for approval using form No. 34405, "Merit Badge Counselor Information." The troop may request that the name not be published or circulated to other troops. All counselors must be approved by the Council Advancement Committee.

- Simply being registered with the BSA does not mean that a merit badge counselor is approved. Final approval is given when the counselor's name is submitted to the district advancement committee on the Merit Badge Counselor Information form. The counselor must be approved for each badge that he/she will counsel for.
- Additionally, in Circle Ten Council, merit badge counselors recruited from outside the ranks of Scouting (those not currently registered with the BSA and/or who do not have a son in the program) will undergo a Criminal Background Check performed by BSA.

Eagle Requirement #4

While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of 6 months in one or more of the following troop positions of responsibility: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Den Chief, Instructor, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Librarian, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Historian, Varsity Team Captain, Co-Captain, Venture President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Boatswain, Boatswain's Mate, Yeoman, Purser, Store keep, Program Manager, Squad Leader, Team Secretary, or OA Troop Representative.

- If a Scout serves actively in one or more of the listed positions for 6 months as a Life Scout without being removed from the position, the troop must give the Scout credit for fulfilling the requirement, even if the Scout was not effective in the position. Fulfilling this requirement is not dependent on how effective the boy is as a leader, only that he served actively in the position. Nothing in this statement should be construed as preventing troop leadership from removing a Scout from a leadership position prior to the completion of the required term if the Scout is not performing at a minimally acceptable level.
- The traditional way that this requirement is fulfilled is by serving in one position for the entire six months. A Scout may also fulfill this requirement by serving in more than one position; however, he must serve in the position(s) during six different months after earning the Life rank.

Eagle 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 idea must be approved by your Scoutmaster, your troop committee, the beneficiary of the project, and approved by the council or district before you start. You must use the "Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook," No.18-927, in meeting this requirement.

- The "Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook" must be used to meet this requirement, and will help the Eagle candidate through all of the steps necessary to conduct a service project. The Scout may use the hardcopy workbook available through the service centers or one of the computer-friendly versions available on official BSA websites.
- Work involving council property or other BSA activities is not acceptable for an Eagle Scout service project. The service project also may not be performed for a business, or be of a commercial nature, or be a fund-raiser. Fund-raising is permitted only for securing materials or supplies needed to carry out the project. Depending on the nature of the fundraising portion of the project, the Scout may have to file a Unit Fundraising form at the time of project approval. If

the Scout has questions regarding fundraising, he or his troop leadership should confer with their district advancement committee or the council program director for guidance early in the process of planning the project.

- Routine labor, or a job or service normally rendered, should not be considered. This is most commonly seen as a project in which the Scout and his crew of helpers in merely providing the labor for a project planned and/or directed by the benefiting organization. Therefore, if the Eagle candidate proposes to do a service project for a church that involves painting the fellowship hall, the question to be asked is, Does the church plan to have the hall painted even if the Scout doesn't do this as a project? If the Scout finds that the answer to this question is "yes," then it would not qualify as an Eagle project. The work would fall into the category of "routine labor, or a job or service normally rendered."

Securing Approval

- Securing approval is a two-step process, which is accomplished by writing in the appropriate white spaces and lines on pages 5 through 9 of the workbook. (If the Eagle candidate needs extra space, he may add more pages if he chooses to. The brochure says "You may remove staples and add pages if you wish." This is the choice of the Eagle candidate.)
- Step 1 is for the Scout to propose his project concept to his Scoutmaster. The Scout shows the Scoutmaster his project concept on page 5 of the "Service Project Workbook." If the Scoutmaster agrees that the Scout is on the right track, the Eagle candidate then proposes the project to the beneficiary.
- Step 2 is for the Scout to describe his project in more detail on pages 7-8 of the "Service Project Workbook." At this time, the project plans are formally approved by the beneficiary, the unit leader, the unit committee, and a representative of the District Advancement Committee who each sign the "Service Project Workbook" on page 9. Only after this occurs, should the Scout proceed to carry out his project.
- The space provided in the workbook should be adequate to write a description of the project and how it will benefit the beneficiary, and to describe the plan. Troops that desire more detail than can be written in the appropriate spaces and blanks in the workbook are expecting more than is necessary. However, a plan write up needs to be sufficiently detailed as to clearly show that the steps involved will lead to the completion of the project and give the candidate the opportunity to show the necessary leadership of others.

Role of Parents

- Parents should not be involved in planning, supervising or carrying out the project.

Carrying Out the Project

- Pages 10 -- 13 of the Eagle workbook have adequate space for the Eagle candidate to keep notes and records of how the project progresses, who assisted on the project, any changes that were made, materials used and time spent. **There is no minimum or maximum number of hours required.** The project should be of sufficient duration for the Scout to clearly demonstrate his leadership in the effort. Remember, the objective is completion of the approved Eagle service project and demonstration of leadership of others, not how many hours it takes.
- The Scout and the troop leadership should understand that a thorough discussion of the Eagle Project will be a focal point of the Eagle board of review. The final approval for the adequacy and completion of the Eagle Project is the concurrence of such by the Eagle Board. While it is unlikely that a board would find a project insufficient which was completed as initially approved, significant changes or short cuts to the completion of the project could easily lead to an adverse decision at the board of review.
- The troop should not micro-manage the Eagle candidate's project. Rather, once the project is approved, the Scout should be allowed to carry out the project on his own. If mistakes are made, the Scout has an opportunity to learn and to make changes.
- Upon completion of the project, the Eagle candidate and the Scoutmaster sign the appropriate spaces on page 13 of the Eagle workbook as well as the representative of the group benefiting.
- Many boys choose to make a notebook or scrapbook of their Eagle project. However, troops or districts are not allowed to require Scouts to make a notebook/scrapbook or to type the information. If a Scout chooses to document his project in this manner, it is his decision. If he does not want to make a typed notebook with photographs or a scrapbook, that is OK. The Eagle workbook does call for the information to be presented legibly.

Eagle Requirement #6

Attach to [the Eagle] application 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. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.

- All requirements up to this point, including this one, must be met before the Scout's 18th birthday.
- Upon completion of this requirement, the Eagle candidate is ready for his board of review.

Eagle Requirement #7

Complete your board of review.

- Scouts who have completed Eagle requirements 1-6 prior to their 18th birthday should fill out their Eagle Scout Rank Application and submit it promptly, following the procedures set out by their District Advancement Committee, so that he may be reviewed and recognized within three months after that date. For Eagle Scout boards of review to be conducted between three and six months after the candidate's 18th birthday, they must be pre-approved using guidelines set by the council and a written statement by an adult explaining the reason for the delay must be attached to the Eagle Scout Rank Application when it is submitted for the board of review. This statement should remain attached to the Eagle Scout Rank Application after the board of review when it is submitted to the council office. The Council Advancement Committee has designated the initial responsibility for this pre-approval to the district advancement committees. If an Eagle Scout board of review is to be held after the six months following the candidate's 18th birthday, the Eagle Scout candidate must petition the National Boy Scout Committee for an extension of time to hold the board of review. The petition must be processed through the local district and council, detailing the extenuating circumstances that prevented the board of review from being held within the six-month period following the candidate's 18th birthday, and be accompanied with a copy of the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The National Boy Scout Committee has stated "Extenuating circumstances are defined as conditions or situations that are totally beyond the control of the Scout or Venturer."

Eagle Board of Review

- The Eagle Board of Review should be conducted as soon as possible after the Eagle candidate has completed requirements 1-6 and should not be delayed to coincide with boards of review conducted by the unit for candidates for other ranks.
- According to the National BSA Advancement Policies and Procedures, *“The Boy Scouts of America has placed the Eagle Scout board of review in the hands of either the troop, team, post, or ship committee or the district or council committee responsible for advancement. The council will decide and promulgate which method or methods may be used.”*
- Circle Ten Council requires Eagle Scout boards of review to be conducted on the district level. A district level board of review may be conducted and considered official if held in one of the following two ways:
 1. Comprised of Eagle board members selected by the troop and at least one member of the District Advancement Committee.
 2. Comprised solely of members of the District Advancement Committee.
- The Scout must go through the district Eagle board of review in the district in which his troop is located.
- It is a violation of policy to conduct one or more preliminary boards of review prior to the official district board of review.
- The District Eagle board of review is composed of a minimum of three members and a maximum of six members, 21 years of age or older. Other than the district representative, these members of the board of review do not have to be registered in Scouting, but they must have an understanding of the importance and purpose of the Eagle board of review.
- The candidate’s unit leader introduces him to the members of the district Eagle board of review, and may remain in the room with the concurrence of the candidate and the district representative, but does not participate in the board of review. In addition, Unit leaders, Assistant Unit leaders, relatives or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout’s board of review. In no case should a relative or guardian of the candidate attend the review, even as a unit leader. After the review, the candidate and his unit leader leave the room while the board members discuss the acceptability of the candidate as an Eagle Scout.

Purpose of the Eagle Board of Review

- The members of the board of review should have the following objectives in mind when they conduct the board of review:
 - To make sure the Scout has done what he was required to do for the rank -- no more or no less.
 - To see how good an experience the Scout is having in the unit.
 - To encourage the Scout to progress further.
- The district Eagle board of review is not an examination; the board does not re-test the candidate on any of the requirements. For example, a Scout should not be asked to demonstrate tying knots or other Scout skills, including merit badge requirements, at the board of review. The Scout can be asked where he learned a skill, who taught him and the value he gained from passing the requirement. The board should, however, make certain that good standards have been met in all phases of the Scout's experience.
- The district Eagle board should attempt to determine the Scout's attitude towards Scouting's ideals and his acceptance of those ideals. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review to make sure that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school and community. (This, in effect, is a discussion of Eagle requirement #2.)
- Examples of appropriate questions to ask about the Eagle candidate about his service project are listed below. These are taken from the "Eagle Service Project Workbook:"
 - Did you demonstrate leadership to others?
 - Were you indeed the project director, rather than doing the work yourself?
 - Was the project helpful to the religious institution, school, or community group?
 - Did the project follow the plan?
 - If changes were made, why were they made?

Can a Candidate Be Turned Down By The District Eagle Board of Review?

- An Eagle candidate may be turned down for the rank of Eagle **only** if he has failed to meet the stated Eagle rank requirements. All decisions of the board of review are arrived at through discussion and an affirmative decision must be unanimous. District Eagle boards of review should completely understand that the **only** reason to turn a boy down for Eagle is failure to complete the Eagle requirements as set forth in current BSA literature.
- If the district Eagle board of Review cannot reach a unanimous decision, the applicant must be informed of his options for appealing the decision and the proper process for an appeal.
- A Scout may not be turned down because the district Eagle board of review feels he is too young to be an Eagle Scout. This violates BSA policy. It is also a violation of policy to turn down a Scout because he doesn't appear to be "Eagle material." An Eagle Scout does not have to be a "natural born leader of men," who exudes confidence and inspiration. A small, quiet boy can complete the requirements and be an Eagle just like a tall, confident boy.

- If the candidate meets the requirements, he is informed that he will receive the board's recommendation for Eagle Scout rank. If the Scout does not meet the requirements, he is informed that he will not receive the board's recommendation for the Eagle scout rank and told the reasons for his failure to qualify. A discussion should be held with him so that he understands how he may meet the requirements within a given period. A follow-up letter must be sent to the Scout by the District Advancement Committee confirming the agreements reached on the actions necessary for the advancement. If the Scout chooses to appeal, the name of the person to be contacted should be supplied to the Scout. The appeal can be made by the Scout or his parents or guardians.

Appeal Procedures

- Two sets of circumstances may lead to the appeal of a decision:
 - when the unit leader does not recommend the Scout for a district Eagle board of review, or if the unit leader or unit committee refuses to sign the Eagle Scout application.
 - when a Scout is turned down at the district Eagle board of review because, in the assessment of the members of the board, the Scout did not complete one or more of Eagle rank requirements #1 through #6 as written.
- In the first situation (failure to receive unit recommendation), the candidate or his parents or guardians may appeal the decision. The committee hearing the appeal shall decide to grant or not to grant a board of review.
- In the second situation (declined by a board of review), the candidate or his parents or guardians may appeal the decision. In all appeals, under any circumstances, the appeal must be made to the next highest level. For example, if the unit did not sign the Eagle Scout application, the appeal should be made to the district advancement committee. If the candidate was turned down in a board of review held by adult members of his unit and a district or council representative, the appeal should be made to the full district advancement committee. If the candidate was turned down by a board of review comprised solely of district advancement committee members, the appeal should be made to the council advancement committee. On receipt of the appeal, the district or council committee responsible for advancement will provide for a prompt review to determine the facts. All parties must be interviewed either individually or as a group. After a review of the facts, the district or council advancement committee will make a decision. Once a decision is reached, the district or council advancement committee will notify the troop leadership. A decision at any level finding in favor of the Scout shall be final. Units have no right of appeal of a decision.
- If the initial committee hearing the review does not find in favor of the Scout, he or his parents may appeal that decision to the next highest level (district, then council then national). All requests for appeal shall be made in writing, signed by the Scout and/or his parents, and shall set forth in detail the reasons for requesting an appeal.

Stalling a Scout for Eagle

It is unacceptable for a troop to delay a Scout's work towards his Eagle rank for any reason as long as he is meeting the requirements.

Extensions of Time to Complete Requirements

There are two circumstances under which a Scout may apply for an extension of the time requirements associated with various Eagle Scout requirements:

1. A Scout or a Venturer foresees that he will be unable to complete the requirements for the Eagle rank prior to his 18th birthday; or
2. An Eagle candidate completes all requirements except his Eagle board of review prior to his 18th birthday but is unable to be reviewed and recognized within three months after his 18th birthday.

Although the circumstances and procedures for these two conditions are very different, in both cases there must be extenuating circumstances beyond the scout's control.

In the first case, from Page 25 [2007 update] of *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, "...[the Scout or Venturer] may file a petition in writing with the National Boy Scout Committee through the local council (and his local district advancement committee) for special permission to continue to work toward the award after reaching age 18. The petition also may be filed by the unit leader or unit committee. The petition must show good and sufficient evidence and detail the extenuating circumstances that prevented the Scout from completing the requirements prior to his 18th birthday. **Extenuating circumstances are defined as conditions or situations that are totally beyond the control of the scout or Venturer.**" The petition should be filed, along with a copy of the candidate's Eagle Scout application (front and back), with the district advancement committee for presentation to the Council Advancement Committee. If approved for recommendation, the Council Advancement Committee, through the Program Director, will then forward the request to the National Office for an official decision on whether the request for an extension will be accepted.

In the second case, as stated in Requirement #7 above, boards of review conducted between three and six months after the candidate's 18th birthday must be pre-approved by the local council. The Council Advancement Committee has designated the initial responsibility for this pre-approval to the district advancement committees. A letter from an adult must accompany the Eagle Scout application with an explanation as to the nature of the conditions that prevented the Scout from being reviewed in a timely manner. If an Eagle Scout board of review is to be held after the six months following the candidate's 18th birthday, the Eagle Scout candidate must petition the National Boy Scout Committee for an extension of time to hold the board of review. The petition must be processed through the local district and council, detailing the extenuating circumstances that prevented the board of review from being held within the six-month period following the candidate's 18th birthday, and be accompanied with a copy of the Eagle Scout Rank Application.

Advancement for Special Needs Scouts

- The BSA has incorporated provisions to allow Scouts with special needs to advance. The provisions are different depending on where in the program the Scout is. For Cub Scouts, because the standard for completing requirements is “Do your best”, the parents and Den Leaders can judge the Scout in question. The “best” for one Cub Scout may not be the same as the “best” for another.
- In Boy Scouts, for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks, the Scout, his parents or the troop may submit proposed alternative rank requirements to the Council Advancement Committee, through his district advancement committee, for approval. There should be clear evidence provided that the requirements being altered or substituted are beyond the physical or mental abilities of the Scout.
- For Star, Life or Eagle ranks a Scout may petition to substitute certain merit badges in place of those merit badges specified for the Eagle Scout rank if the requirements of the individual merit badges are beyond his capabilities. The Scout must complete as many of the specified merit badges as he can do prior to petitioning for alternative merit badges. The petition must be made using Form 58-730 Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges attached to his Eagle Scout application. It should be submitted to the Council Advancement Committee, through his district advancement committee, for approval. There should be clear evidence provided that the requirements being substituted for are beyond the physical or mental abilities of the Scout. If approved, this form will need to be attached to the Scout’s Eagle Scout application when he submits it to the District Advancement Committee requesting a board of review for Eagle rank.
- Special needs Scouts may also register beyond the normal age range provided certain conditions are met.
- If assistance in these areas is needed, contact the District Advancement Chairman, the District Executive, or the Council Program Director.

Venture Advancement

- A Scout who earns the First Class rank while a registered member of a Boy Scout troop or Varsity team may elect to continue working toward Eagle as a registered member of the Boy Scout troop or a registered member in a Venturing crew, or while retaining dual membership registration in both a troop/team and a Venturing crew., until his 18th birthday. If the Scout chooses to retain dual registration, both the Scoutmaster and crew Advisor need to confirm which adult leader will oversee the Scout's advancement process toward the rank of Eagle. That selected adult needs to be fully versed and knowledgeable of the 12 Steps from Life to Eagle and the timeline requirements of merit badges, leadership, and the requirements of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project,
- Position of responsibility requirements may be met by the Venturer serving as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer in his crew, or as boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, or storekeeper in his ship.
- The Scoutmaster conference will be conducted by the Advisor or Skipper.
- As the Venturer meets the requirements for the Star and Life ranks, a board of review is conducted by the crew or ship committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted by the District Advancement Committee.
- The Eagle service project must be approved by the District Advancement Committee.
- If the Venturer maintains dual registration in both a troop/team and a crew, and the two units are in different districts, the Eagle Board of Review and the approval of the Eagle Leadership Service Project should be handled by the District Advancement Committee corresponding to the unit which supervised his advancement to the rank (see the first paragraph in this section).
- Venture members who are simultaneously members of a Boy Scout troop may receive credit for work toward Boy Scout advancement and Venturing advancement. An example would be getting dual credit for hikes for the Backpacking merit badge and for the Ranger Backpacking elective.
- All requirements for all awards require the Scout do complete them while in the program for which the requirements apply. For example, credit is not given for experiences or work done while a Cub Scout towards a Boy Scout rank or merit badge. Work done on Venturing awards must be completed while the youth is a Venturer.

Troop Policies

- Scouting units may not establish unit policies that conflict with the Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scheduling Eagle Courts of Honor

- Once an Eagle application is submitted to the council office, the turnaround period normally takes four to six weeks but sometimes takes up to eight weeks depending on the time of year, number of Eagle Scouts advancing at that time, whether or not the Scout is past his 18th birthday, and whether there are corrections needed on his Eagle Scout Rank Application. **Please do not schedule an Eagle court of honor earlier than eight weeks from the date that the paperwork is submitted to the council office because you may not have the materials necessary to award the rank.**

In Closing

- Most infractions of BSA policies probably begin innocently, likely by untrained leaders or those who don't fully understand the advancement program of the BSA. The program is designed with specific objectives in mind.
- Altering or adding requirements, such as requiring a Scout to attend multiple boards of review or make scrapbooks of his service project, does not help meet Scouting's goals. In fact, these alterations of the program are an injustice to the Scout and are a violation of BSA policy.

If You Need Assistance

If you need more information or assistance with any areas discussed in this packet, please contact your District Advancement Chairman, your District Executive, or the Council Program Director at 214-902-6710.