

Life after Attaining the Rank of Life: A Guide to Attaining Your Eagle in Troop 890

Attaining the Eagle Rank is the highest award given to a Boy Scout. This guide is designed to help you navigate the final steps from Life to Eagle. Remember, you must finish all of the requirements and submit your completed Eagle Application prior to your eighteenth birthday!

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Troop 890 has leaders who will help you along this final leg of your journey. As you go through this document you'll see the following leadership positions referenced:

Scoutmaster	-	Andrew Bucki
Eagle Coordinator	-	Dr. Bill Bruck
Advancement	-	Ed Rimkus and Mark Gober
Troop Committee	-	Dick Laurin
District Representative	-	Norm Meador and Bill Wilson
Eagle Advisor	-	TBD (Different for each Eagle Candidate)

Now let's begin.

GET ORGANIZED

Start an Eagle file. We suggest you have one paper (in a three-ring binder), with an electronic backup (just in case something gets lost). Keep it next to where you keep your Scout Handbook. As you accumulate paperwork related to your Eagle, add it to the file.

KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE

Before taking one step forward, make sure your records and the records of the Troop are accurate.

1. Check your Scout Handbook and make sure each advancement box has been checked and/or initialed;
2. When you received a rank advancement badge or a merit badge it was attached to a card. Assemble all of those cards in your Eagle file (baseball card sleeves work well); and
3. Request an Individual History Report from one of the Advancement Chairmen or the Scoutmaster. This will provide you with the dates for advancement, when you were awarded each merit badge, and leadership positions. If there is any discrepancy between your records and the troop's records bring it to the attention of the Advancement Chairmen immediately so the issue can be resolved!

When you get close to having your Scoutmaster Conference and Eagle Board of Review, ask one of the Advancement Chairmen to provide you with an updated report.

INITIAL STEPS

Contact the Eagle Coordinator next. He will discuss the overall process with you, and will have the forms (Eagle Application, Eagle Project Workbook) you will need. The forms are also available on the troop website, <http://troop890.org>, under the Eagle Scout Tab.

The Eagle Coordinator delivers a presentation each semester for both Scouts and their parents about completing the trail to Eagle Scout. You are encouraged to attend. He will cover:

1. Acting in a troop-level leadership position for six months;
2. Completing any remaining mandatory and elective merit badges. There are twelve mandatory badges and nine elective badges required. You may complete these at any time prior your Scoutmaster Conference;
3. Completing a troop-approved Eagle Project;
4. Filling out the Eagle Application and completing the essays; and
5. Arranging for your Scoutmaster Conference and Eagle Board of Review.

Each element above will be addressed in greater detail later in this treatise.

The Eagle Coordinator will also have a list of Eagle Advisors for you to choose from. The Eagle Advisor is a mentor who will specifically work with you and act as a resource while you complete your Eagle requirements.

BE A LEADER

Once attaining Life rank you must serve in a position of responsibility for at least six months – what you did before your Life Board of Review doesn't count, and you can't turn eighteen before your term of service is up. Plan ahead!

The following positions qualify: Patrol Leader, Venture Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Order of the Arrow Representative, Den Chief, Scribe, Librarian, Troop Quartermaster, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Chaplain Aide, Instructor, Webmaster, and Leave No Trace Trainer.

Contact the Scoutmaster concerning a leadership position if you are not elected to a leadership position (Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader).

FINISH THOSE MERIT BADGES

There are twelve mandatory merit badges – Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Emergency Preparedness (or Lifesaving), First Aid, Cycling (or Swimming or Hiking), Personal Management, and Family Life. In addition to these twelve another nine merit badges must be earned.

To augment the offerings at Summer Camp, the troop offers many of the mandatory badges and several elective merit badges each calendar year.

We strongly encourage scouts to complete merit badges during the course session when they are taught, and certainly no later than one year after beginning the merit badge. Scouts that do not timely complete a course are issued a blue merit badge card which identifies which of the requirements have been satisfied, and also what requirements remain outstanding. It is the Scout's obligation to keep up with the blue card, complete the work, and have the merit badge instructor complete the blue card and submit it to the Advancement Chairmen.

Don't let this sneak up on you! There are several mandatory merit badges that have time commitments (one 90 days) in satisfying certain requirements.

GETTING COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR YOUR EAGLE PROJECT

"Hi, I did my Eagle Project last week. Will you sign my project book and my Eagle Application? My Scoutmaster Conference and Eagle Board of Review are this evening and I turn eighteen tomorrow." Houston, we have a problem.

While you can do your Eagle Project at any time after attaining Life, the project must first be approved by the Troop Committee. Don't put yourself in jeopardy – take the time to learn the process.

Follow these steps prior to commencing physical work on the project:

1. If possible, attend the "Trail to Eagle Presentation" delivered by the Eagle Coordinator;
2. Use the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (link available @ <http://troop890.org>);
3. Read the instructions in the Workbook. Pay special attention to the "Examples" section – collection drives and pre-existing programs do not qualify as acceptable projects;
4. Talk with your Eagle Advisor about what you would like to do;
5. Outline what you want to do with a representative from the group the project will benefit and secure his signature in the Workbook;
6. Discuss the project concept with the Scoutmaster and secure his signature in the Workbook;
7. Fill out the Project Description and Project Details (methodology and materials) in the Workbook, take "Before" pictures;
8. Contact the Troop Committee Chairman and arrange for a time for you to present your project to the Troop Committee. You will be asked to explain what you intend to do, how you intend to do it, and how the materials for the project will be acquired. Secure the Troop Committee Chairman's signature in the Workbook; and
9. Contact the District Representative, discuss the project and secure his signature in the Workbook.

Now you can actually do the project. Keep accurate records of the time spent on the project (by you and your volunteer work force), take pictures during while the work is completed and after it's finished, and complete the Workbook. After project completion, you'll need to secure the signatures of the Scoutmaster and the representative of the benefitting group.

FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND WRITING THE ESSAYS

Ah, yes, the paperwork – the bane of everyone's existence, especially teenage boys. If looked at in the right frame of mind, however, it is not really that daunting a task.

1. Fill in the blanks. The on-line application is an interactive pdf file that you can fill in and then print off. You'll be able to fill in 3/4 of the application using the information contained in your Individual History Report and in your Eagle Project Workbook.
2. Recommendations. The application asks you to list contact information for your parents/guardians, religious leader, an educator, your employer, and for two other adults that can comment on how you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Be courteous and ask the adult if they'd be willing to write a recommendation prior to listing them on the application.
3. Eagle Application Essay. Part of Requirement 6 is to 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've demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service." This essay is to be attached to your application.

This isn't a test; it's an opportunity for the Scout to do some self-reflection and to articulate what he thinks he'd like to do with his life and how he's used his leadership skills outside of Scouting. It doesn't have to be a novel, but it does need to show that effort went into its creation.

4. Troop Essay. The troop also requires the Scout to draft a separate essay to be read and discussed at the Scoutmaster Conference. The intent is for the Scout to demonstrate how he feels the Scouting Experience has prepared him for life as an adult. The following questions should be answered:
 - a. Explain the various principles contained in the Scout Law and how they influence the way you live your life. Discuss what is meant by honor, duty to God and Country, and what it means to obey the Scout Law. Why should we be willing to help people at all times? Why is it important to keep yourself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight?
 - b. Summarize the Scout Law. What is the common bond between the first six points of the Scout Law? What is the common bond between the last six points of the Scout Law? What impact will obeying the Scout Law have on your life and the lives of others? What is your favorite point of the Scout Law, and why? What is the most difficult point of the Scout Law for you to obey, and why?
 - c. The ultimate objective of Scouting is good citizenship and self-reliance. Explain what it means to be a good citizen. How has Scouting helped you become more self-reliant?

- d. Explain in your own words what it means to have good character, integrity, and courage. How do they relate to the Scout Oath and Scout Law? Explain why it is important that your actions are consistent with your words and professed beliefs.
- e. Once you have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, what duty and obligation do you have to your troop, friends, community, church and family? How do you plan to give back to Scouting in the same measure it has given to you?

I'M FINISHED, RIGHT?

No, not quite. There are still two things left to do, and again, they've got to be done in the right order.

1. Scoutmaster Conference. This is the opportunity for the Scoutmaster to visit with you, go over your application, review your Eagle Project Workbook, and read your essays and talk with you about your Scouting experience. Bring your Scout Handbook, Eagle file, Eagle Scout Application, your essays, and a current Individual History Report.

This conference can be scheduled to take place at any time prior to your Eagle Board of Review. If you desire to do both the conference and board on the same day, coordinate with both the Scoutmaster and the Eagle Coordinator so that there is sufficient time (say an hour) for the Scoutmaster to conduct his conference before the Eagle Board of Review convenes.

2. Eagle Board of Review. The last step in the process is to contact the Eagle Coordinator and schedule your Eagle Board of Review. This Board is comprised of a District Level representative of BSA and at least two members of the Troop Committee.

It is extremely important that you schedule your Eagle Board of Review in advance with the Eagle Coordinator. Eagle Boards of Review are lengthy, and only a few (2-3) can be conducted in one session. Please be respectful of the Board member's time.

Treat this as your final exam – "BE PREPARED!"

- a. Have your application, essays, Eagle Project Workbook and any letters of recommendation on-hand and neatly organized;
- b. Be in full Class A uniform, including merit badge sash; and
- c. Recite the Oath and Law without prompting or stumbling, and be prepared to discuss any element of the Oath, the Law, your Eagle Project, or your application.

Upon approval by the Board of Review, the Eagle Coordinator will forward the necessary paperwork with BSA to complete the process.

I look forward to working with you and assisting you on your way to Eagle.

BILL BRUCK, Eagle Coordinator

Rev. 08.2010

Page 5 of 5