
Life to Eagle Seminar

Adopted by
The Advancement Committee
Orange County Council
Boy Scouts of America
January 16, 2009



Notice.....

This presentation is NOT an official publication of the Boy Scouts of America nor the Orange County Council; however the contents have been reviewed and approved by three members of the the National Council Advancement Committee.

It is prepared to assist Scouts, Parents, and Scout Leaders.

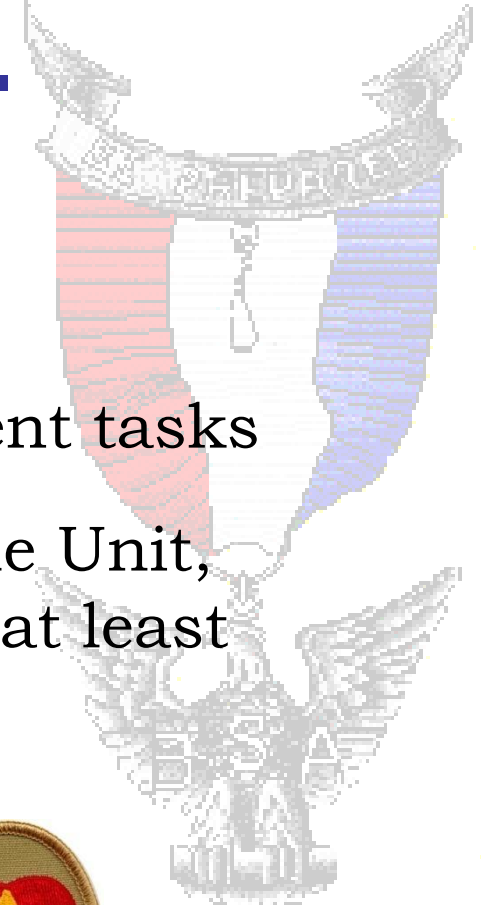
Introduction

- ✓ Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is a special event. Fewer than 7% of youth registered as Scouts earn this distinction each year.
- ✓ In the history of the United States of America, 2 million Scouts have earned the Eagle Rank since 1912.



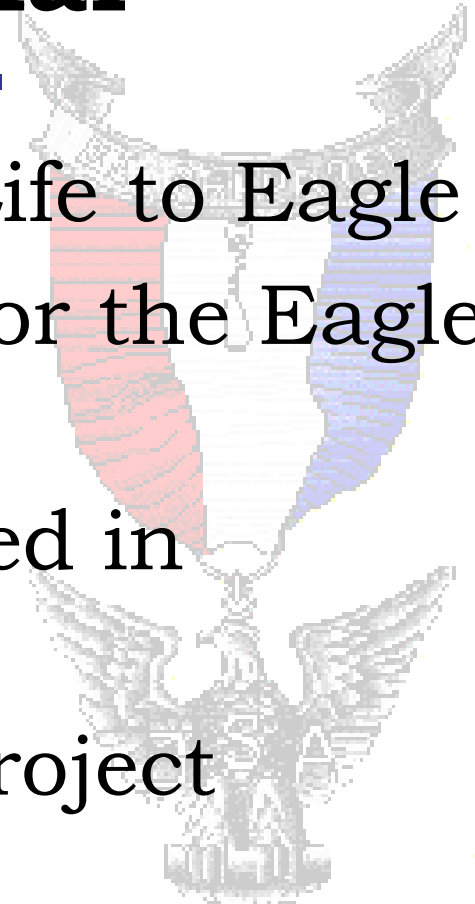
To Achieve the Eagle Scout Rank a Scout Must

- ✓ Earn five prior Scouting Ranks
- ✓ Meet 60 achievement requirements
- ✓ Satisfactorily complete 1,255 different tasks
- ✓ Be reviewed by Adult Scouters at the Unit, District, Council and National level at least 70 times



Purpose of this Seminar

- ✓ Review the 12 steps from Life to Eagle
- ✓ Review the Requirements for the Eagle Scout
- ✓ Explain the procedures used in Orange County Council
- ✓ Review the Eagle Service Project Requirements



Target Audiences

- ✓ Star and Life Rank Boy Scouts
- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Scout Leaders
 - ✓ Scoutmasters
 - ✓ Advancement Chairs
 - ✓ Committee Members




Who Sets Eagle Requirements?

- ✓ Set by BSA National Committee
- ✓ Orange County Council Advancement Committee implements policies and procedures of BSA National and Council



The Seven Eagle Requirements

1. Be active for six (6) months after Life rank.
 2. Live by the Scout Oath and Law
 3. Earn at least 21 Merit Badges (including those required for the Eagle Rank)
 4. Hold a position of responsibility for a period of 6 months
 5. Complete an Eagle Leadership Project
 6. Take part in a Scoutmaster Conference
 7. Successfully complete Eagle Board of Review
- 

Be Aware.....

NO Council, District, Unit or Individual has the authority to **ADD** to or **SUBTRACT** from any BSA advancement requirement



Reference

- ✓ Advancement Committee Policies & Procedures, #33088, revised annually
- ✓ Boy Scout Requirements Handbook, #33215, revised annually (*)
- ✓ Boy Scout Handbook, #33105
- ✓ Eagle Scout Application, #58-728, latest revision
- ✓ Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, #18-927, latest revision

(*) NOTE: The requirements in this handbook take precedence over all other documents.

How Do I Get From Life to Eagle?


It takes 12 steps



12 Steps from Life to Eagle

1. Fill out Eagle Scout Application Form
 - ✓ Obtain the most current application form available from the Council Office or Website at <http://advan.counciltraining.net>
 - ✓ All dates must be correct
 - ✓ Complete Requirements as specified
2. Complete Service Project *(use workbook)*
3. Do Req. 1-5 before your 18th birthday

12 Steps from Life to Eagle

- 
4. Fill out Eagle Scout Application Form
- ✓ Must be **completely** filled out (with the signatures of Unit Leader and Unit Committee Chair)* NO exceptions
 - ✓ Submit completed application to your District's Eagle Chairperson
 - ✓ Five or six letters of recommendation are requested and are to be sent by the references listed on the application to your District's Eagle Chairperson or designee

12 Steps Continued

5. Your application is hand carried to Council for verification

- ✓ O C C informs the District's Eagle Committee that application is ready
- ✓ Board of Review is authorized

6. District actions at same time as OCC

- ✓ Maintain critical path information
- ✓ Verify Eagle Project Workbook
- ✓ Collect Letters of Recommendation



12 Steps from Life to Eagle

7. District Eagle Committee receives the verified application from OCC and prepares the Eagle Board of Review Packet
8. Board of Review arranged by District Eagle Chairman (**3 to 6 members**)
9. The Eagle Board of Review is held.
 - ✓ Unit Leader introduces candidate to the members but is not a board member
 - ✓ Requires unanimous decision

12 Steps Continued

10. Board of Review signs off if the candidate is passed. Application and Advancement Form is taken to Council for processing
11. Council Scout Executive signs Application
12. Application sent to National which verifies and authorizes award (Done electronically within 2 weeks, in some cases; target 6 weeks)

Requirement #1 – Be Active

Be active in your troop, team, ship or crew for a period of at least six (6) months after you achieve the rank of Life Scout

♥ Any six (6) month period, *not necessarily consecutive*

♥ ACTIVE means registered and not suspended for discipline

Requirement #2 –Scout Spirit

Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life.

This requirement is NOT for how you act in your Unit, but how you live your life!

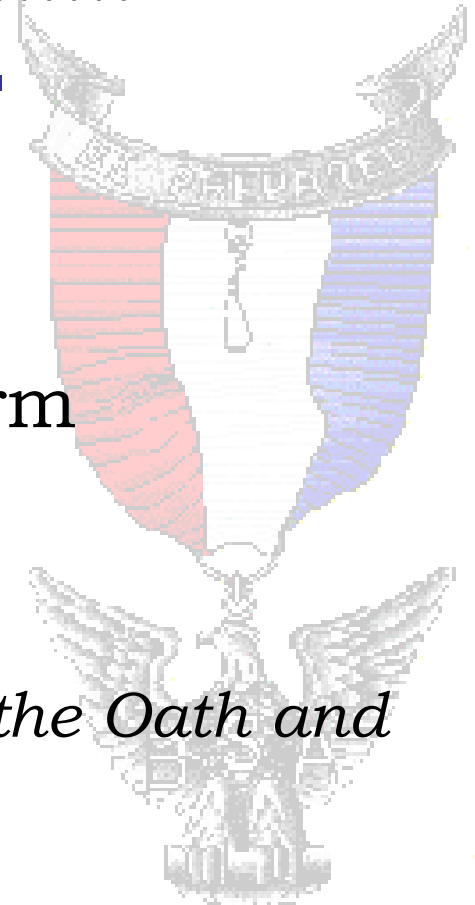
Live by Oath & Law Continued.....

♥ This is **NOT** Troop Spirit

♥ This is **NOT** wearing the uniform

♥ This **IS** about “everyday life”

Do you abide by the principles of the Oath and Law in your everyday life?



Requirement #3 — Earn 21 Merit Badges

Earn a total of 21 Merit Badges (4 required, 6 total for STAR: 3 required, 11 total for Life Scout) including the following:

1. First Aid
2. Citizenship in the Community
3. Citizenship in the Nation
4. Citizenship in the World
5. Communications
6. Personal Fitness
7. Emergency Preparedness **OR** Lifesaving **
8. Environmental Science
9. Personal Management
10. Swimming **OR** Hiking **OR** Cycling **
11. Camping
12. Family Life

(** You must choose only one of these merit badges. If you have earned more than one of the badges listed, choose one and list the remaining badges to make your total of 21)

Merit badges must be.....

- ☑ **APPROVED** in advance by the Unit Leader
- ☑ **EARNED** with approved Merit Badge Counselors
- ☑ **REPORTED** to Council by the Unit Representative

NOTE: *Keep your MERIT BADGE ADVANCEMENT CARDS, They are your proof of completion!*

Merit Badges and Scouts with Disabilities

- ♥ There are special exceptions for Scouts with disabilities
- ♥ Contact the District Advancement Chairman for guidance



REQUIREMENT #4 —

Position of Responsibility

While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of six (6) months in one or more qualified positions of responsibility. List only those positions served after your Life Board of Review Date.

Note: The Eagle rank does not accept a Scoutmaster created position of leadership (i.e.: Den Chief Trainer, Physicians Aid, Record Keeper, Etc.) only those clearly indicated in the handbook and on the Eagle Scout Application are acceptable. (See next page for acceptable positions)

Boy Scout Troop Eligible Positions

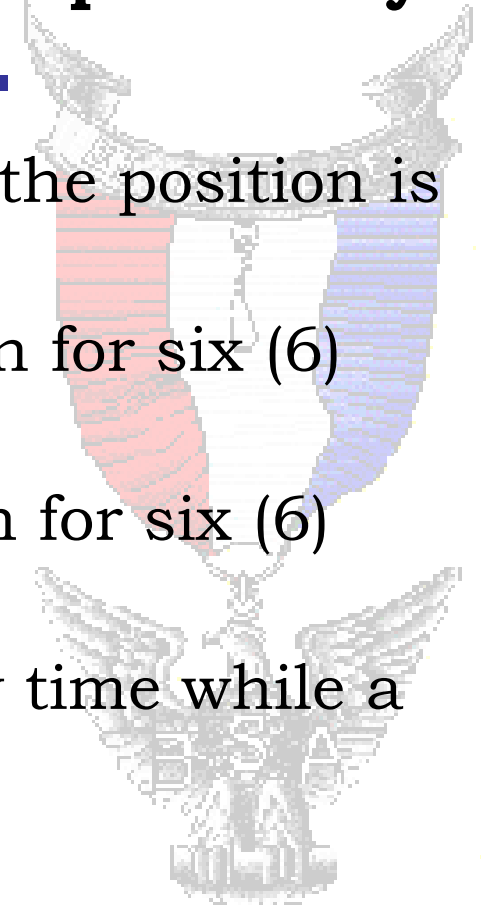
- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide
- Order of the Arrow Troop Representative
- Den Chief
- Scribe
- Librarian

- Historian
- Quartermaster
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Chaplain Aid
- Instructor

See the manual for Venturing, Sea Scouting or Varsity for appropriate positions in those programs

Serve *Actively* in your Position of Responsibility

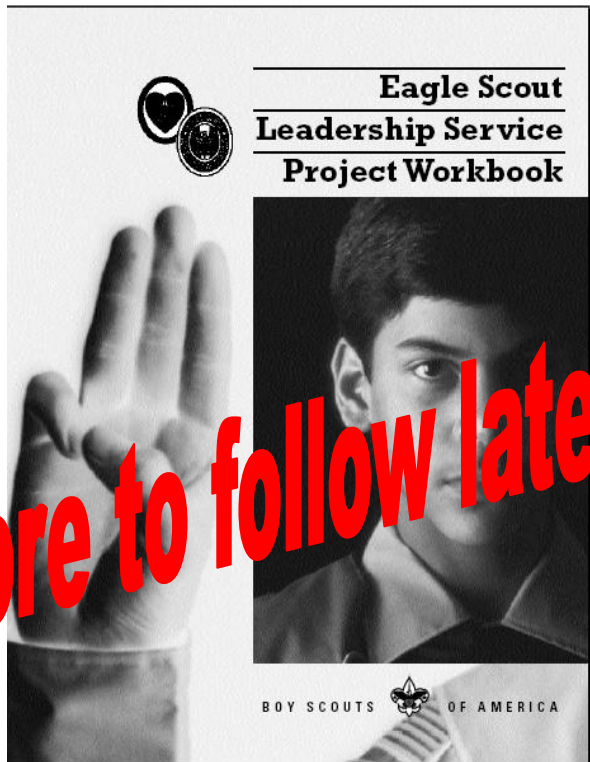
- ✓ Time carried on the unit records in the position is all that may be required.
- ✓ You do not have to hold one position for six (6) months.
- ✓ You do not have to hold the position for six (6) consecutive months.
- ✓ You may meet this requirement any time while a Life Scout.



Performance in the Position of Responsibility

- ✓ A Scout may not be held to an extraordinary standard of performance.
- ✓ The standard of performance used to measure this requirement shall be the same as that applied to other Star, Life or Eagle Scout candidates.
- ✓ No unit may set a standard of performance other than time in position.
- ✓ Otherwise, the Eagle candidate shall be presumed to have satisfactorily fulfilled this requirement.
- ✓ Unit leaders may not expect any Scout to meet an undefined or unknown standard of performance.

Requirement #5 — Eagle Service Project



More to follow later..

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

Requirement #6 — Scoutmaster Conference

- ✓ Take part in a Scoutmaster conference with your unit leader.
- ✓ A Scoutmaster conference is a positive experience, the objective of which is to help a Scout evaluate his accomplishments and set new goals. Even goals beyond the rank of Eagle and/or the age of 18



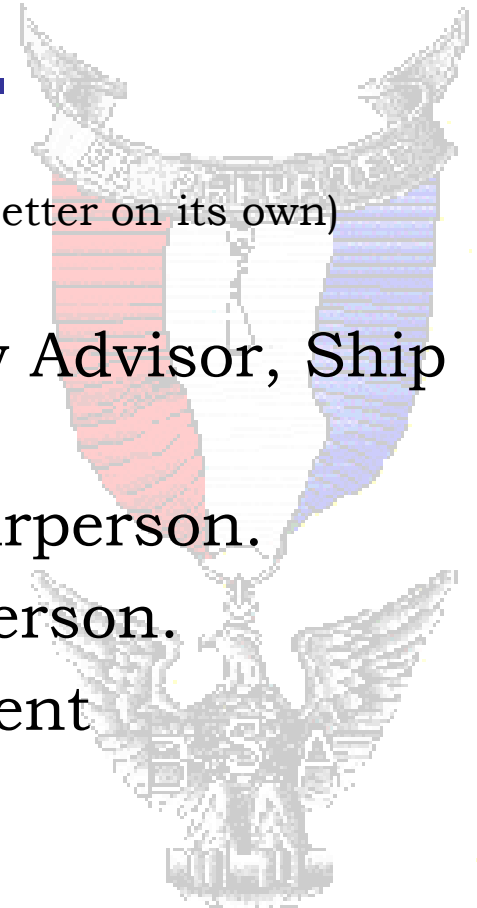
Scoutmaster Conference - continued

- ✓ A Scoutmaster conference may be conducted at the request of an Eagle candidate, or be initiated by the unit leader.
- ✓ When there is a reason to believe that an Eagle candidate will not be qualified to achieve the Eagle Scout award within the six month period prior to his eighteenth birthday, **the unit leader is obligated** to initiate a counseling session, on a timely basis, so as to give the Eagle candidate every reasonable opportunity to become qualified.

What if I have a problem?

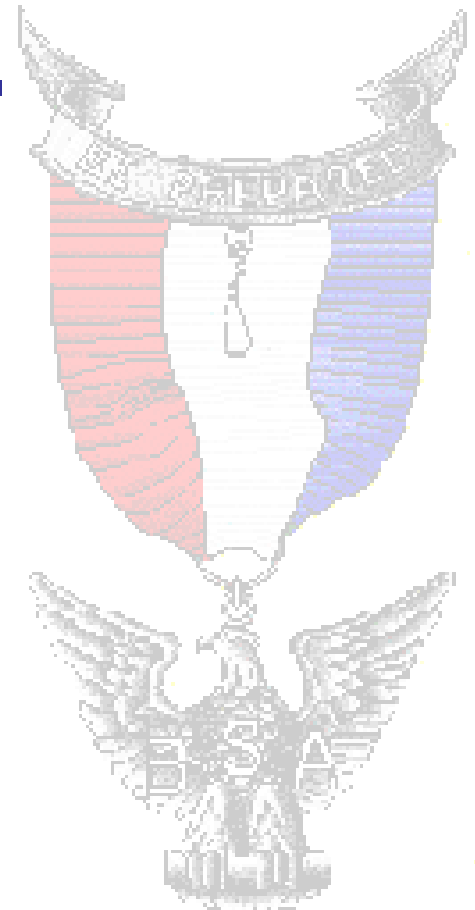
Get HELP: (Quickly, do not wait for it to get better on its own)

1. Talk to your Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, Ship Skipper or Team Coach.
2. Talk to your Advancement Chairperson.
3. Talk to your Committee Chairperson.
4. Talk to your District Advancement Chairperson.
5. Talk to you Eagle Advisor



Have a Problem??

What can I do if I am
having a problem with my
Scoutmaster or any other
Adult Leader?



Having a Problem continued

- ✓ All Scouts have the right to ask for a board of review at any time to review an adverse advancement decision.
- ✓ If you think you are not being treated fairly or that you are being held to extraordinary standards, contact the District Advancement Chairperson or the District Chairperson.
- ✓ Do not delay, the more promptly problems can be resolved the better.



Having a Problem continued

Remember, **NO** Council, District, Unit or Individual has the authority to add to or subtract from any advancement requirements.

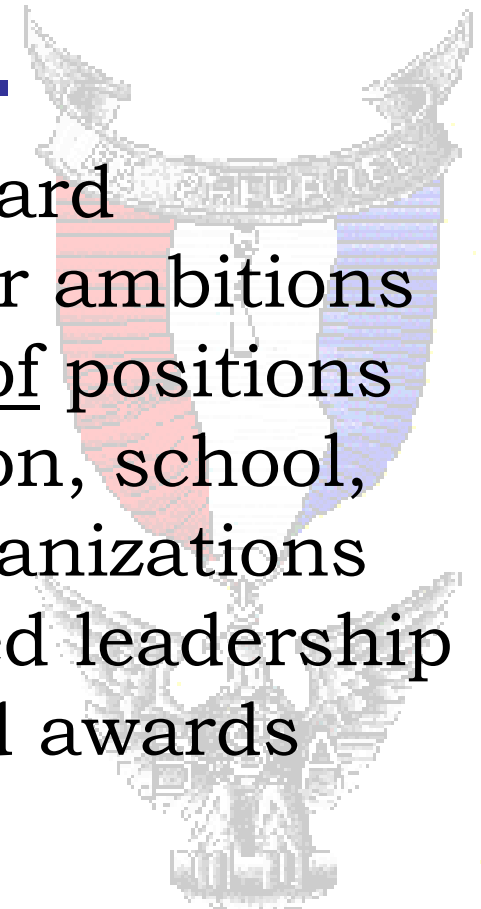
Unfortunately ignorance is no excuse for imposing “old” requirements, self created requirements, or unit created requirements.

Requirement #7 — Board of Review

- ✓ 3 to 6 members over 21 years of age
(1 District and/or Council Member must participate)
- ✓ Unanimous decision must be reached
- ✓ If the candidate is not approved then an appeal process is available
- ✓ Candidates may not repeat a board of review, an adverse decision can only be overturned by appeal

Your Life Ambitions

Attach to your Eagle Scout Award 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 any honors and awards received during this service



Letters of Reference

You need to print six copies of the letter of reference. You must get at least six letters of reference (one from your parents, an Educator, two from Friends, your employer, and one from a religious leader over the age of 21). If no employer, you may provide only five letters of reference. The letters must match the references listed on the Application.

What if no Religious reference?

On your Eagle application, you must list your parents on the line for Religious reference since it was your parents responsibility to expose you to religion.

You must also write, in addition to the life ambition, a “Statement of Religious belief.” This is a letter stating that you believe in a supreme being and submit this along with the Eagle Application.

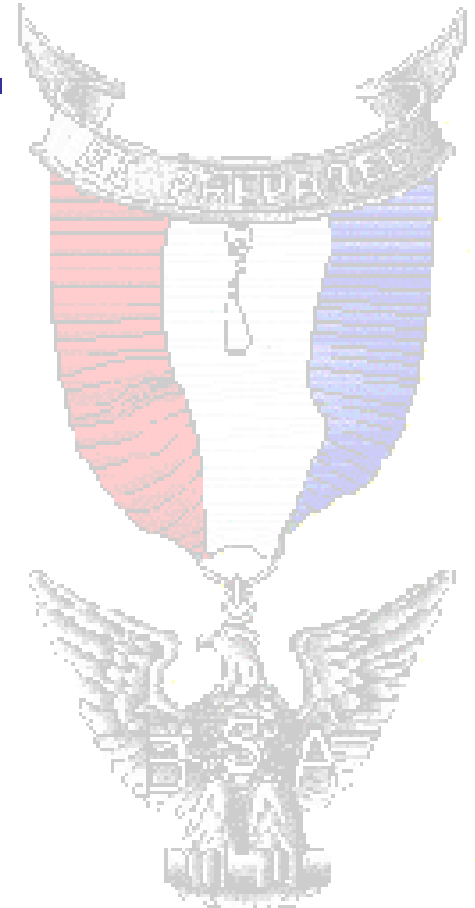
What if no employer

- ✓ If you are not employed, you need not provide a letter of reference.

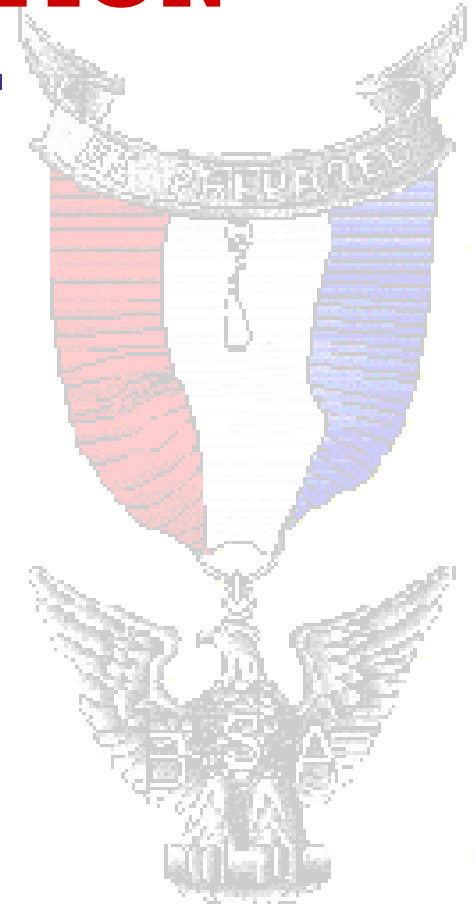
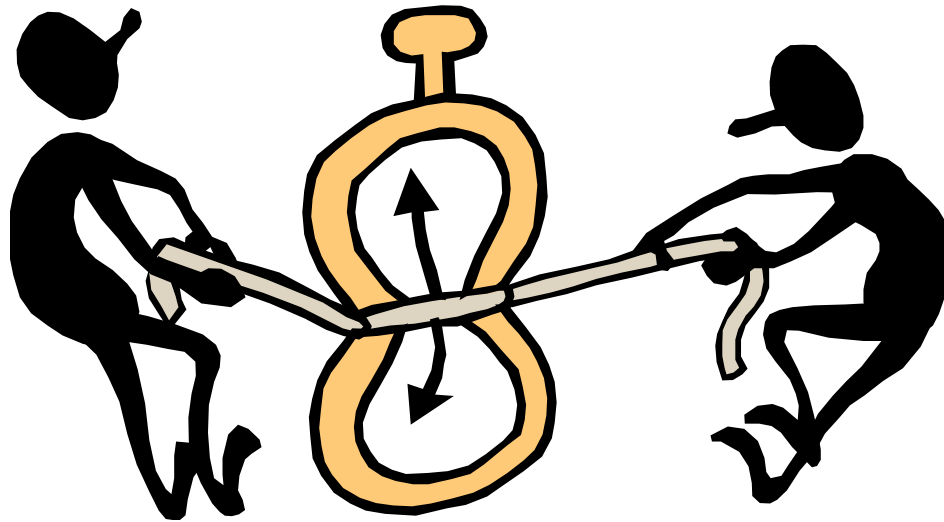


The Dreaded 18th

Birthday Problem



If you are 17 **PAY ATTENTION**



Your 18th Birthday!!

Most people receive about 18 years advanced warning of the date on which they will turn 18. It is not an emergency or an unexpected event.

You know the date.



You Must Do the Following

BEFORE your 18th Birthday:

- ✓ Complete all your merit badges.
- ✓ Complete your Eagle Service Project.
- ✓ Complete your Scoutmaster Conference*.
- ✓ Be active as a Life Scout for six months.
- ✓ Serve actively in a position of responsibility for six months while a Life Scout.

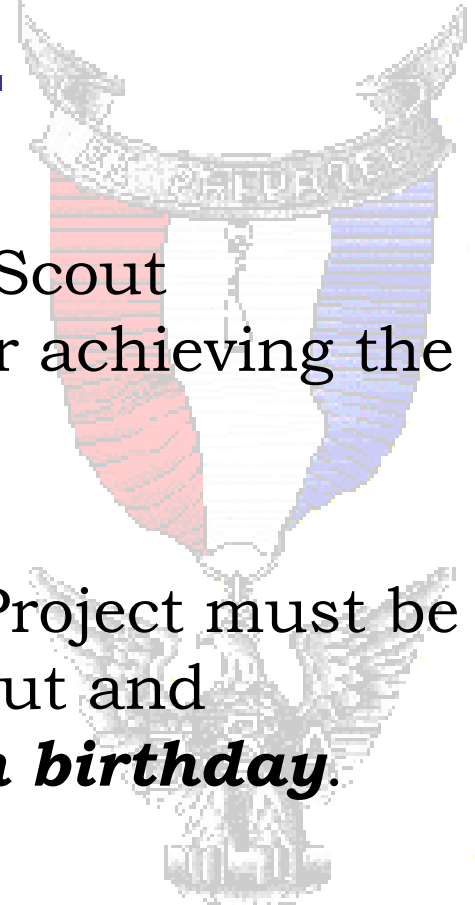
Eagle Scout Leadership Project

**Orange County Council
Boy Scouts of America**



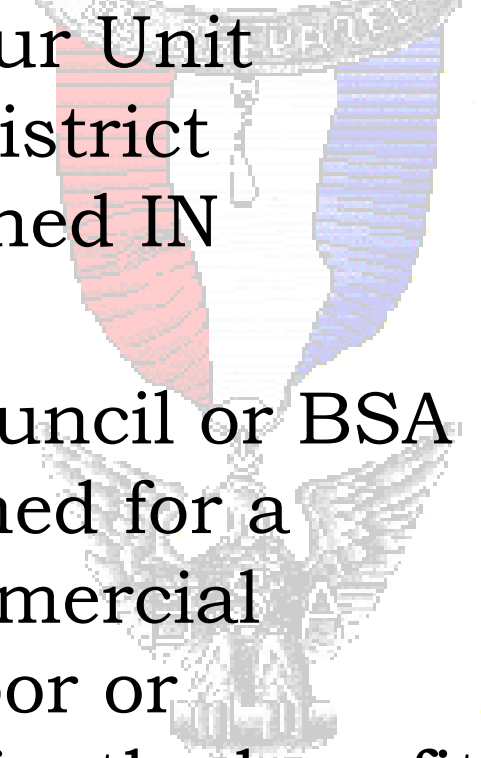
Start planning as soon as you reach Life rank...

- ✓ You may start planning your Eagle Scout Leadership Project just as soon after achieving the rank of Life Scout as is practical.
- ✓ All work on your Eagle Leadership Project must be undertaken while you are a Life Scout and **completed before your eighteenth birthday.**



1. The Project

- ✓ Must be a project that conforms to the wishes and regulations of those for whom the project is undertaken.
- ✓ Must be where the Eagle Scout demonstrates leadership skills learned in Scouting.
- ✓ Be done outside the sphere of Scouting (not a Troop function).
- ✓ The Scout must plan the work, organize the personnel needed, and direct the project to completion.
- ✓ Routine labor, a job normally rendered should not be considered.
- ✓ There is NO minimum or maximum number of volunteers or hours of work needed to carry out your Eagle Leadership Project.

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-
- 
- ✓ Approvals by the Recipient, your Unit Leader, Unit Committee and District Representative **MUST** be obtained **IN WRITING** before you begin.
 - ✓ The Project may not involve council or BSA properties, may not be performed for a business, may not be of a commercial nature, may not be routine labor or maintenance and may not be for the benefit of an individual.

You must do your own project

- ✓ A candidate may not use his participation in the service project of another Eagle candidate to satisfy the Eagle Leadership Project requirement
- ✓ You may not copy or otherwise share your responsibilities for planning, developing or providing leadership to others
- ✓ It's all about showing LEADERSHIP



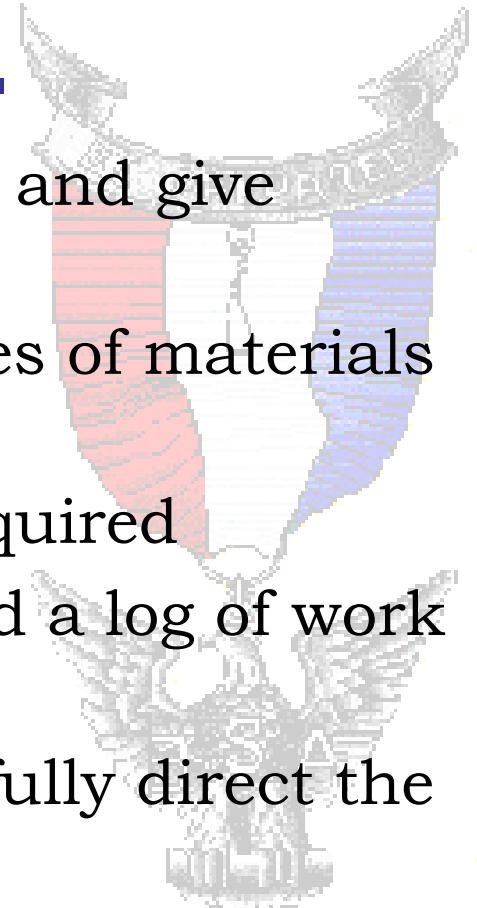
2. Have Measurable Goals

- ✓ The amount of time spent must be sufficient for the Scout to demonstrate leadership skills
- ✓ Although the project idea must be approved *before* work is begun, the Board of review must determine the manner in which the project was carried out



3. Plan, Develop, Carry Out

- ✓ You are expected to "...plan, develop and give leadership to others..."
- ✓ Determine what kinds and quantities of materials and/or supplies are needed
- ✓ Their costs and how they will be acquired
- ✓ Keep accurate inventory records and a log of work activities
- ✓ Manage the resources and purposefully direct the project to its completion



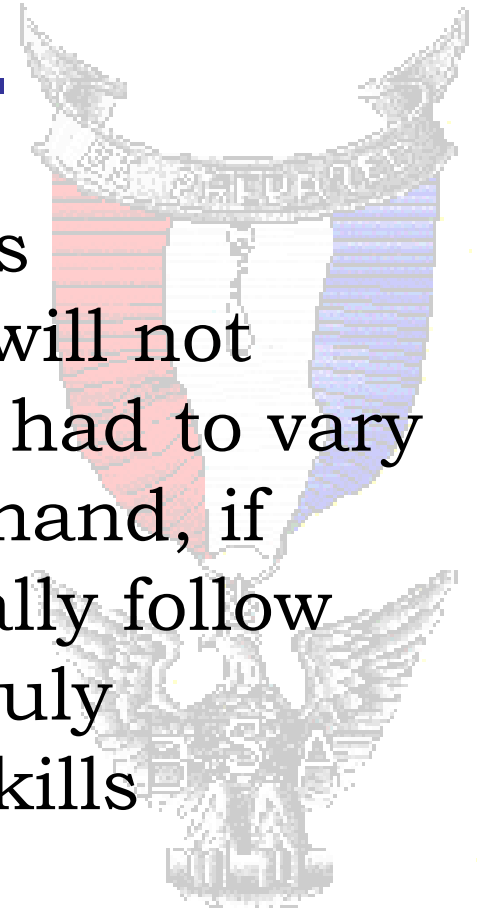
A few words about “Fund Raising”

- ✓ Fund raising is permitted only for the purpose of acquiring the materials and supplies needed to carry out your project.
- ✓ Fundraising is **not** a requirement. Fundraising must not be part of the project itself.
- ✓ Fund raising must conform to the Guide to Safe Scouting (Tour Permits*, Parental Consent, Supervision and most important is safety).

(*) Note: Getting the Tour Permit is the responsibility unit committee.

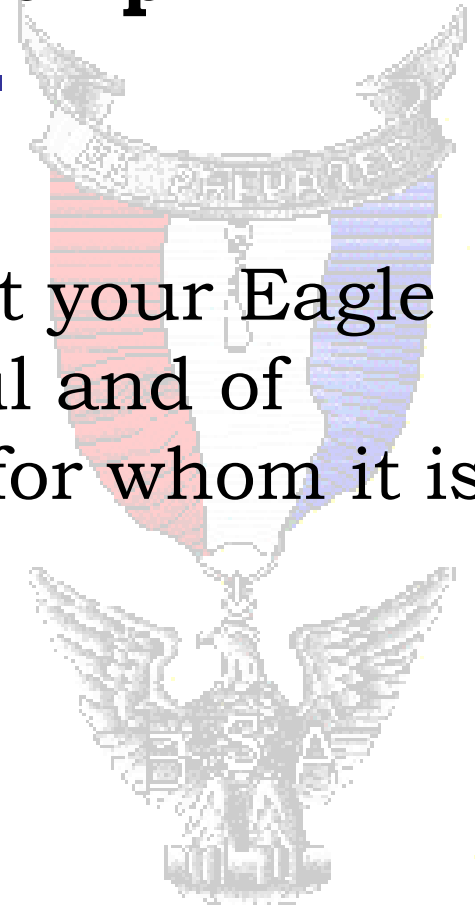
What if things go wrong?

Even the best planned activities sometimes need change. You will not necessarily be penalized if you had to vary from your plan. On the other hand, if your project did not substantially follow your plan . . . then have you truly demonstrated the leadership skills expected of an Eagle Scout?



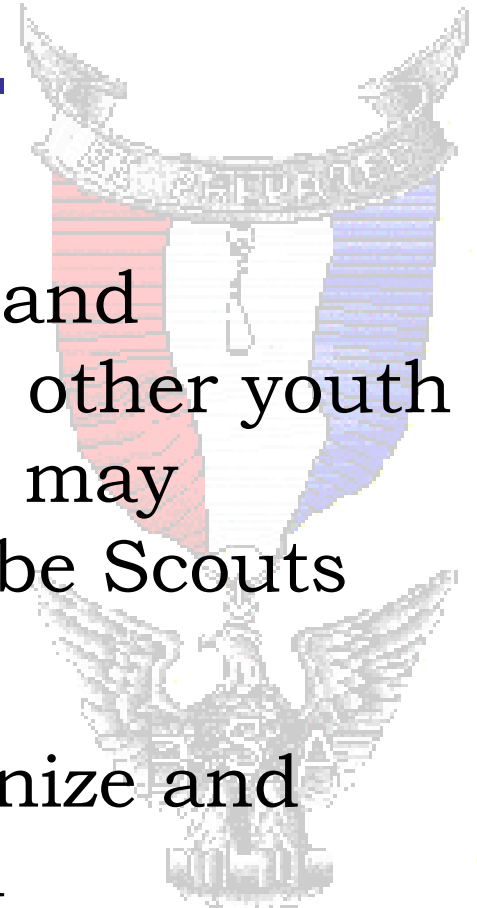
4. Opportunity to Show Leadership

- ✓ The Board of Review will expect your Eagle Leadership Project to be helpful and of significance to the beneficiary for whom it is undertaken



Who can help?

- ✓ Other Scouts, Family, Friends and Classmates, Church Members, other youth groups, etc., of any age or type may volunteer; they do not have to be Scouts
- ✓ You should recruit, train, organize and schedule the personnel needed



What about adult supervision?

An Eagle Leadership Project is not an official unit activity, it is an Eagle Scout Leadership Project.

Proper planning, however, includes preparing for appropriate adult participation and safety concerns.

See the **Guide to Safe Scouting**.



5. A qualified beneficiary

- ✓ Service to others is an important philosophy to the Eagle Leadership Project. Therefore, your Eagle Leadership Project must be done outside of Scouting.
- ✓ Projects can **not** be done for your Council, Troop or for the District.
- ✓ You can do a project for your unit Sponsor if it meets other requirements.



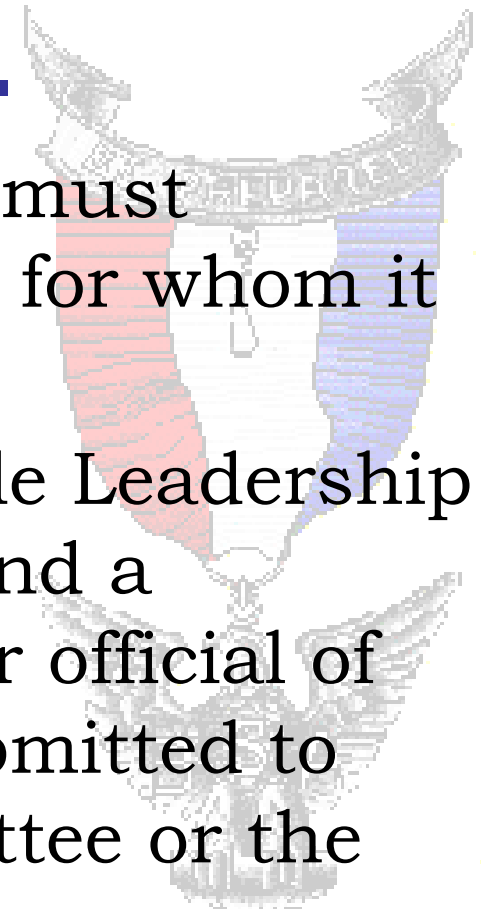
5. A qualified beneficiary

- ✓ A community organization is defined as any government agency, or an institution qualified under Section 501(c) of the US Internal Revenue Code as a not-for-profit charitable, educational or religious organization.



What your Beneficiary wants

- ✓ Your Eagle Leadership Project must conform to the wishes of those for whom it is undertaken.
- ✓ The detailed plan for your Eagle Leadership Project must be approved by and a signature obtained from proper official of the beneficiary, before it is submitted to your Unit Leader, Unit Committee or the District Advancement Committee.



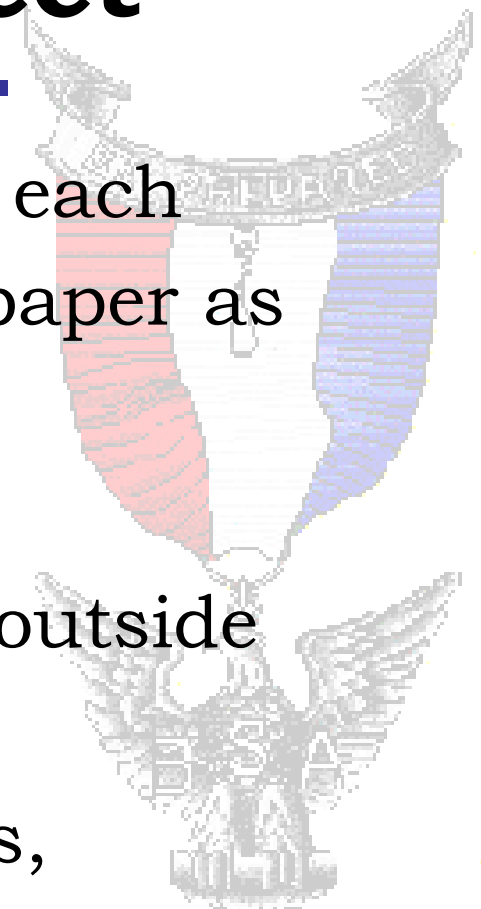
Help Choosing a Project

Please take a moment to answer each question on a separate sheet of paper as completely as you can.

Question 1:

What are your current interests outside of Scouting?

Answer: football, hockey, chess, speaking, building, computers, teaching, hiking, boating, theater, etc.



Help Choosing a Project

Question 2:

What are your best skills?

Answer: organizing, books, technology, physical, planning, leading, acting, writing, etc.



Help Choosing a Project

Question 3:

What schools, churches and community groups have influenced your life?

Answer:

Are they non-profit and non-BSA?



Help Choosing a Project

Question 4:

What needs to be done for these groups?

Answer:

It can **not** be maintenance or fundraising



Help Choosing a Project

Question 5:

Who would you contact to find how to help?

Answer:

School Principal, Church Minister/
Grounds Keeper, Superintendent,
Ranger, Administrator



Use the Workbook.....

You may use the Eagle Leadership Project Workbook in meeting this requirement.

Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook

No. 18-927

(Note: Always check to see if you have the current version)

<http://www.NESA.org> or

<http://advan.counciltraining.net>

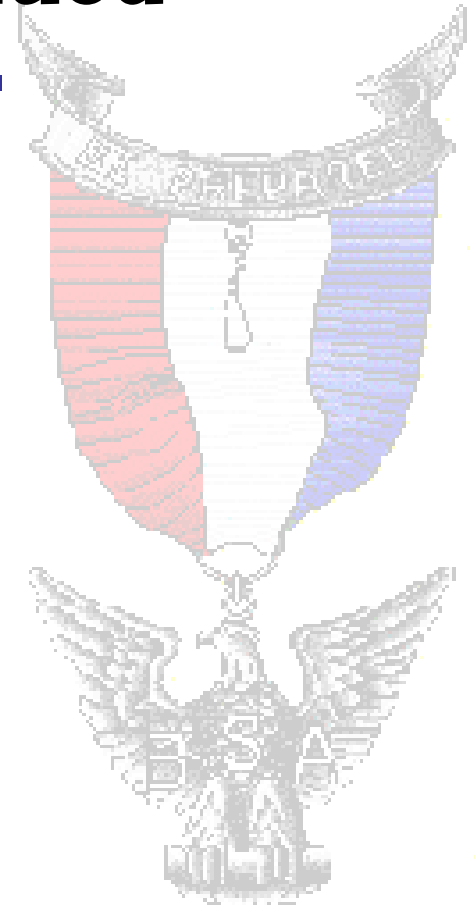
Workbook Sections, continued

Develop

- Create a detailed plan
- Material, time, labor
- Leadership

Carry out

- Describe results
- Show logs of your efforts
- What happened



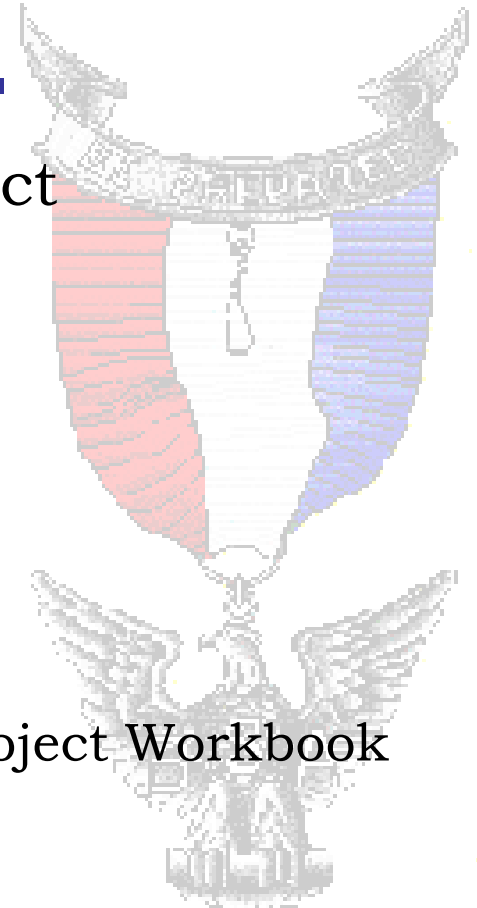
Workbook Signature Page

Before you can start the Eagle Project

- Unit Leader
- Beneficiary
- Unit Committee Chair
- District Advancement Chair

After the project is completed

- Answer the questions on page 3-4 of Project Workbook
- You Sign
- District Eagle Advisor Signs
- Beneficiary Signs



You CAN DO the Following

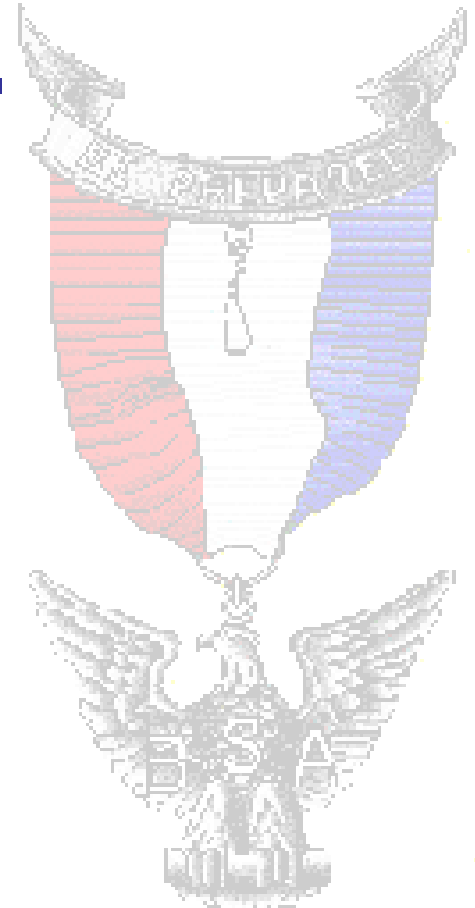
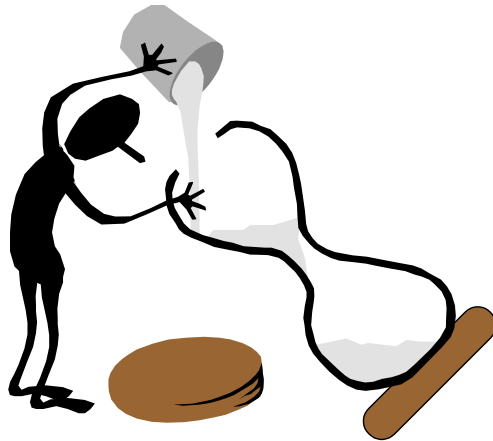
AFTER your 18th Birthday:

(not recommended, do it early)

- ✓ Submit your final Eagle Scout Application.
- ✓ Have your Eagle Scout Board of Review.
- ✓ Have your Eagle Court of Honor.

Time Extensions??

Can I get a Time Extension to complete my Eagle?



Can I get an Extension?

You may file a petition in writing for special permission to continue to work toward the award after reaching age 18.

But...



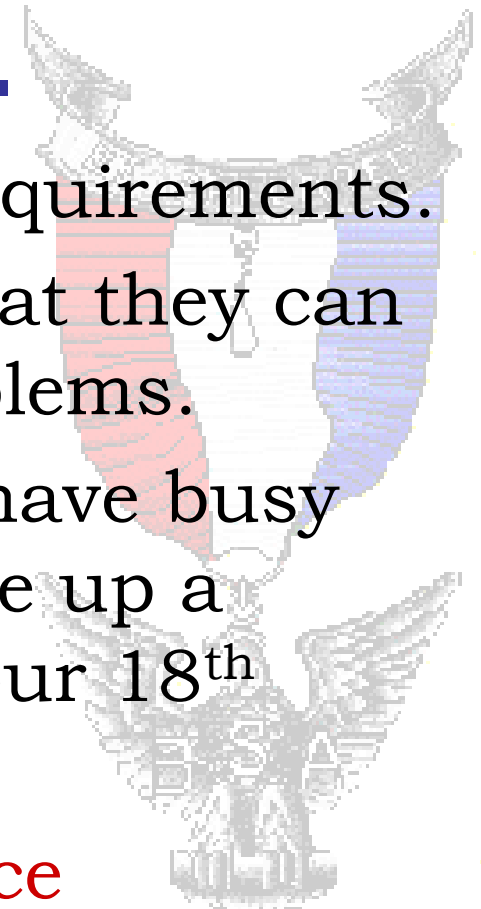
Extensions.....

- ✓ The petition must show good and sufficient evidence and detail extenuating circumstances.
- ✓ Extenuating circumstances are defined as conditions or situations that are totally beyond the control of the Scout.

Late is Late, Late is NOT an excuse!!

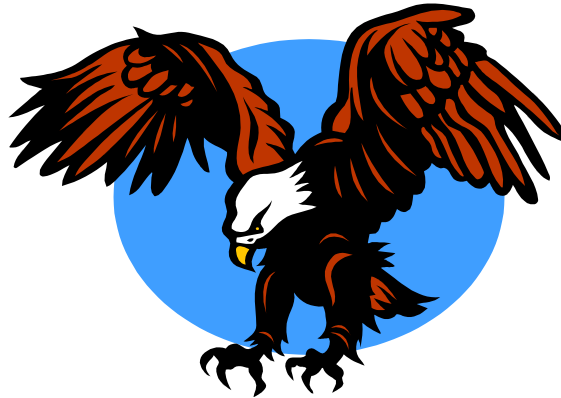
If you are almost 18....

- ✓ Work hard to complete your requirements.
- ✓ Talk to your leaders **now** so that they can help you and warn you of problems.
- ✓ Remember that adult leaders have busy lives. Don't ask a leader to give up a vacation because you forgot your 18th birthday.
- ✓ Know your deadlines in advance



In Summary...

- ✓ Your **GOAL** is to soar as an Eagle.
- ✓ Keep your eye on your goal.
- ✓ Accomplish your goal
- ✓ Plan ahead (with a calendar) and you will Soar as an Eagle.



Credit where Credit is due...

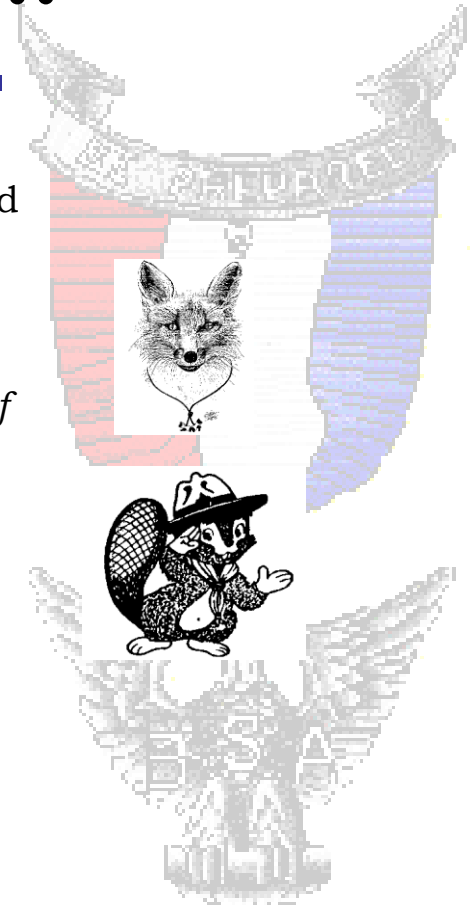
Original slide contents for this presentation was taken from the South Florida Council; and it was modified for layout, content and redeveloped for use.

(Input from Karl H. Johnson, ADC, Lakes District, as part of a Wood Badge Ticket, WE1-612-1-03, Fox Patrol Member)

(again updated in 2004 by Lou Hardin, OCC, District Advancement Committee, and is also a Wood Badge member of the Beaver Patrol WE4-51-2-01)

**This edition was completed at
Philmont Training Center with
the aid of the National Council's
Advancement Committee
members: John Ertel, Ed Mercer
and its Professional Staff advisor,
Terry C. Lawson.**

Edition:9/8/05



Q & A and OCC Website

At this time we would like to answer any unanswered questions.

Visit <http://advan.counciltraining.net>, see what all is there for your assistance.

Thank you for your attention and participation!

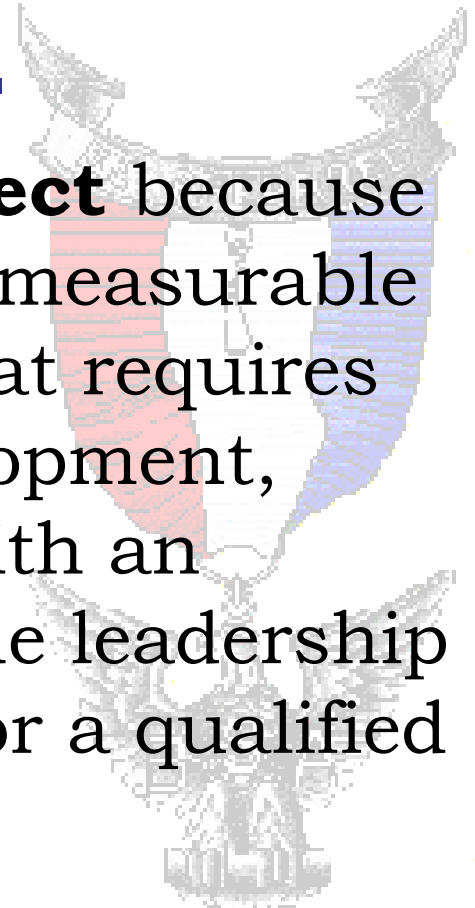
Eagle Project

Some Examples



“Develop a five mile Trail to benefit Yosemite National Park”

This example is a **worthy project** because it is a significant effort, with a measurable goal and a defined objective that requires thoughtful planning and development, provides an Eagle candidate with an adequate opportunity to provide leadership to others, and is undertaken for a qualified beneficiary.



“Develop a new hiking trail at Lost Valley Boy Scout reservation”

This example is **not an acceptable project** because it does not set forth a measurable goal, and is to be performed for an unqualified beneficiary.

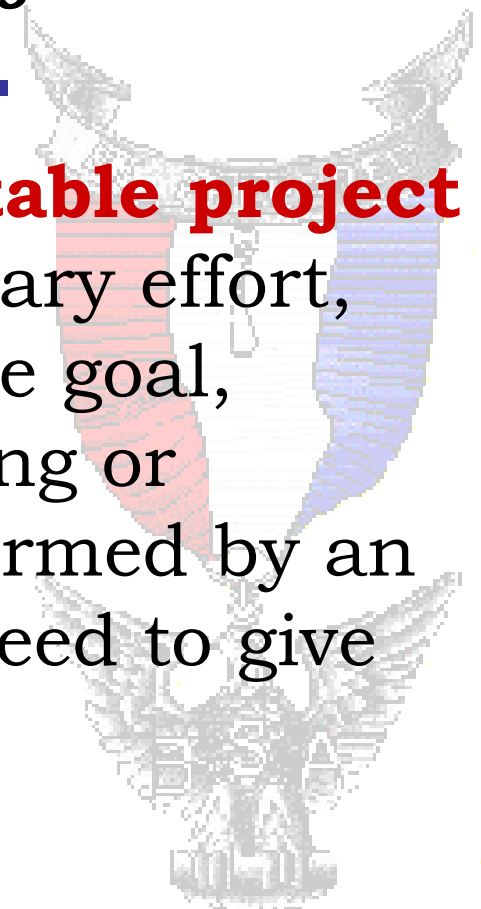


“Make and install 4 benches and plant 12 different varieties of plants in the courtyard of Oakbrook Elementary School”

This example is a **worthy project** because it is a significant effort, with a measurable goal and a defined objective that requires thoughtful planning and development, provides an Eagle candidate with an adequate opportunity to provide leadership to others, and is undertaken for a qualified beneficiary.

“Clean up and remove the trash at Santiago Park”

This example is **not an acceptable project** because it is not an extraordinary effort, does not set forth a measurable goal, requires no meaningful planning or development, and can be performed by an Eagle candidate without any need to give leadership to others.



Tough Situations

Some service projects can be worthwhile and beneficial but still not qualify. Replacing a fence for an elderly person at their home is worthy but not acceptable as an Eagle Project because it benefits an individual rather than the community. Some may be tough calls. A blood drive usually lacks the leadership needed for the project, but it is still possible to qualify under some circumstances.

Having a Problem continued

Some examples of Eagle Myths:

- The Scout can not receive help from his parent
- The Project must involve wood construction
- Detailed drawings to scale/CAD/3D must be included
- Can not involve any volunteers from outside the unit
- Must include multi-media presentations
- The Project must be completed within 30 days
- The Project must be completed as the last requirement
- The Project write-up must be done in such a way that any other Scout could complete it
- The Scout must be 16 years of age before beginning work
- The project must have a minimum of 200 hours

End of the Life to Eagle Seminar

