



HOW TO CONDUCT AN EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW

PURPOSE

The board's purpose is to determine through discussion with the Eagle candidate, whether he is qualified to receive this, the highest rank in Scouting. Every boy should leave the Board of Review:

- Knowing that he has been treated fairly, and that if he has "Passed" that he meets the standards set by the National Council.
- With a renewed commitment to the goals of Scouting, and having expressed the degree to which he expects to give back to Scouting more than he has received.
- With an understanding of the public expectations of an Eagle Scout and a commitment to live up to that standard.
- Knowing his short-comings if he has not passed, and having an understanding from the Board of what actions it would take for him to satisfy the Board of his qualification for the award.

PREPARATION

- When all merit badge work, leadership requirements, etc. are completed, the Eagle application is filled out, being careful to record all dates accurately using advancement reports and troop records for information. The form is sent to the Council Office by the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairman for review and returned.
- The Scoutmaster's Conference is done.
- Scoutmaster or The Advancement Chairman contacts the District Eagle Board and arranges a time and location for the Board of Review, This call should be made, at least a week or more before the desired date of the Board of Review.

MEMBERSHIP

The board should consist of at least three and not more than six members with representatives from the following areas. (It must be remembered that the board is a troop board with a member of the district advancement committee sitting in).

Members of the Candidate's Troop Committee

Note that neither the Scoutmaster nor an Assistant Scoutmaster may be a member of the board, although the Scoutmaster is permitted to sit in without participating.

Member of the District Eagle Board (Required).

One member of the District Advancement Committee sits as a member of the Board. This person is a resource who is familiar with Eagle Scout policies and standards. He or she signs the Eagle application as a member of the committee on advancement. More than one member of the District Advancement Committee may participate only upon invitation of the unit because the unit committee feels it does not have sufficient members who are capable of doing the review. A second member of the Advancement Committee may be present to observe for training purposes.

Parents and Community Members

Clergyman or other Religious Leader

CONDUCTING THE BOARD

- Members of the Board should be in Scout uniform, if appropriate. The candidate must be in uniform. (The uniform of the troop)
- Members of the Board should meet 30 minutes before the candidate is scheduled to appear. The Scout's Eagle Application, Project write-up and Statement of life's purpose should be available for review. The purpose of the review and suggested areas of discussion should be reviewed.
- The Scoutmaster brings the Scout in and introduces him. The Scoutmaster may sit quietly in the background if he wishes. No one else is permitted to be present.
- The review is not an examination; the board does not test the candidate. Rather the board should inquire into the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting's ideals. The board should make sure that good standards of performance have been met in all phases of the Scout's life. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the questioning, to make sure that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school, and community.
- When questioning has wound down, or after about 30 minutes, bring the discussion phase to a close. Ask the Scout to wait outside the room while the Board considers the matter.
- In a period of about ten minutes or less while the boy is waiting, discuss the boy's qualifications.

The Board's decision to award the Eagle rank must be unanimous. If necessary, secret ballots may be taken.

Give consideration to the candidate in light of his age, maturity, background, etc. Be fair, but don't "give" him the award if he doesn't qualify. Maintaining standards is important to the reputation of all Eagles.

If you question whether the candidate qualifies for the award, you may wish to consider some of the following:

In what areas did he show a weakness and why was it there?

Has he come this far because of his opportunities or has he had to overcome obstacles to reach this level?

What is his ability level and attitude?

- If a favorable decision is reached,

Have the Board Chair and the District Representative sign and date the Eagle Application.

Call the boy in and congratulate him. Tell the boy not to plan a court of honor for at least six weeks to allow time to have the application forwarded to the Eagle Scout Service for final consideration. Make a copy of the signed application and send the original to the Council Office at once.

- If a favorable decision is not reached,

Decide what areas are weak and what it would take for the boy to qualify.

Call the boy in, along with his parents or Scoutmaster if present. Try to help him recognize the problem areas and to reach a consensus of what it would take to qualify. If a consensus cannot be reached, the Board should tell him what it would accept. The goals he must meet should be reduced to writing and provided to the Scout as soon after the board as possible.

The boy should be told of his right to ask the Council Advancement Committee to review the decision.

TWELVE STEPS FROM LIFE TO EAGLE

The Twelve Steps to Eagle represent official National standards for the Eagle Award.

1. In order to advance to the rank of Eagle, a candidate must complete all requirements of tenure; Scouting spirit; merit badges; positions of responsibility; while a Life Scout, plan, develop, and provide leadership to others in a service project; and the Scoutmaster conference.

2. The Eagle candidate must select his Eagle service project and have the project concept approved by his unit leader and his unit committee, and reviewed and approved by the council or district advancement committee.

3. It is imperative that all requirements for the Eagle rank be completed prior to the candidate's 18th birthday. When all requirements for the rank of Eagle, including the service project, have been completed, an Eagle Award Application must be filled out and sent to the council service center. (Note: There are exceptions for handicapped persons and waivers may be obtained for others under some circumstances).

4. The application must be signed by the unit leader at the proper place. The unit committee reviews and approves the record of the Eagle candidate before he appears before the board of review.
5. When the completed application is received at the council service center its contents will be verified and the references checked by letter, form, or phone calls. The council determines the method or methods to be used. The candidate should have contacted those individuals listed as references before including their names on the application. The candidates should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as references and the council service center.
6. A report of the service project must accompany the application. All supplementary material pertinent to the project, such as before and after photographs, diagrams, maps, expenses, material and equipment lists, and work schedules should be included with the report so that the unit leader and unit committee (and later the board of review) have a clear picture of the work done
7. After the contents of an application have been verified and appropriately signed, the application and service project report will be returned from the council service center to the chairman of the Eagle Board of Review so that a board of review may be scheduled. Under no circumstances should a board of review be scheduled until the application is returned to the chairman of the Eagle Board of Review. If reference letters are delivered to the Board, they must remain confidential and be returned to the council following the board of review.
8. The board of review for an Eagle candidate is composed of at least three but not more than six members. The board of review members should convene at least 30 minutes before the candidate appears in order to review the application and service project report. At least one district or council advancement representative must be a member of the Eagle Board of Review if the board of review is conducted on a unit level. A council or district may designate more than one person to serve as a member of Eagle Boards of Review when requested to do so by the unit. It is not required that these persons be members of the advancement committee; however they must have an understanding of the importance of the Eagle Board of Review.
9. The candidate's unit leader introduces him to the members of the board of review. The unit leader may remain in the room, but does not participate in the board of review. The unit leader may be called on to clarify a point in question. In no case should a relative or guardian of the candidate attend the review, even as a unit leader. There is no set of questions that an Eagle candidate should be asked. However, the board should be assured of the candidate's participation in and understanding of the program. This is the highest award that a boy may achieve and, consequently, a thorough discussion of his successes and experiences in Scouting should be considered. 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. The decision must be unanimous. If the candidate meets the requirements, he is asked to return and is informed that he will receive the board's recommendation for the Eagle Award. If the candidate is found unacceptable, he is asked to return and told the reasons for his failure to qualify. A discussion should be held with

him as to how he may meet the requirements within a given period. Should the applicant disagree with the decision, the appeal procedures should be explained to him

10. Immediately after the board of review and after the application has been signed, the application, the service project report, reference checks, and a properly completed Advancement Report are forwarded to the council service center.

11. When the application arrives at the council service center the Scout Executive signs it to certify that the proper procedure has been followed and that the board of review has recommended the candidate for the Eagle Award. The application is then forward to the National Council.

12. The Eagle Scout Service screens the application to ascertain information such as proper signature, positions of responsibility, tenure between ranks, and age of the candidate. Any item not meeting national standards will cause the application to be returned for more information. If the application is in order, the Scout is certified as an Eagle Scout by the Eagle Scout Service on behalf of the National Council. Notice of approval is given by sending the Eagle Scout certificate to the local council. The date used on the certificate will be the date of the board of review. The Eagle Award must not be sold or given to any unit until after the certificate is received by the council service center. The Eagle Scout court of honor should not be scheduled until the local council receives the Eagle rank credentials.

SAMPLE REVIEW QUESTIONS

NOTE that these questions are NOT to be shared with the Scout prior to the Board of Review. They are ideas only, for the members of the board.

SCOUTING EXPERIENCE

How has your Troop attendance been since becoming a Life Scout?

Tell us about the most outstanding Scouting experiences you can remember.

Why have you stayed in Scouting this long?

What do you like best about Scouting? Why?

Why do you want to be an Eagle Scout?

Explain in your own words the Scout Law that impresses you the most.

Can you recall any time the Scout Oath or Law influenced your action or decision in a specific situation?

What is a good turn?

Tell us about the last good turn you did.

Does the idea of a Daily Good Turn, as such, ever come into your mind?

What are the qualities that you look for in a person you admire or look up to or respect?

Does Scouting help to instill these qualities?

We understand that you conducted an Eagle service project. In your own words, tell us about your project.

Who did your project help? How did it help?

As you remember the Scout Oath, what does it mean to you?

You didn't make it all the way to Eagle on your own. Tell us about some of the people who helped you and how they helped.

What do you consider the purpose of the merit badge program?

What badge interested you the most and why?

What badge was the hardest for you to earn and why?

Of all the merit badges you have earned, which was the most meaningful? Why?

Have any of your merit badge studies been of help to you in determining your future career?

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES:

Tell us how you fulfill the 12th point of the Scout Law.

What does "Duty to God" mean to you as a Boy Scout?

Why do some people go to church and some do not?

What do you expect of people who attend church?

Do you have the Church Award? Why not?

How can a young man like you serve your God?