Steps from Life to Eagle

The Eagle Process and Project Workbook
SB105
Introduction

The Eagle Scout Award
- Awarded to recognize mastery of Scouting which is itself a demonstration of character, fitness and citizenship
- Scouting’s highest rank
- Once an Eagle, always an Eagle

This course
- Part 1: Process for advancing from Life to Eagle
- Part 2: Specific discussion of the Eagle Scout Service Project
Key Resources

The three critical National resources – always start here!
- Guide to Advancement
- Eagle Scout Rank Application
- Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook
- https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/

Westchester Putnam Council resources
- https://www.wpcbsa.org/eagle-scout-rank-process/

Trail to Eagle Program (an optional WPC program–sold out for 2020)
- https://www.wpcbsa.org/events/tte/

General advancement and awards information
- https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/
Key Contacts

• For Eagle service projects, always contact your district advancement chairperson to get district representatives involved in project review and approval before commencing any planning!

• District Advancement Chairpeople
  – Algonquin: Yzette Swavy-Lipton - Slipton259@aol.com
  – Manitoga: Harry Zhou - Harryz_nyc@yahoo.com
  – Mohican: George Peborde - Gpeborde@gmail.com
  – Muscoot: Bruce Markert - bjmarkert@comcast.net

• Council Advancement Chairperson
  – Chip Cushman: cushman.chip@gmail.com
Life to Eagle Requirements
Two Official Resources

Guide to Advancement

Eagle Scout Rank Application
Eagle Requirements Overview

Before the 18th birthday, a Life Scout must
• Be an active, registered Scout
• Demonstrate Scout spirit
• Earn merit badges
• Serve in a position of responsibility
• Complete a service project
• Have a unit leader conference with Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Skipper

Before or within three months after the 18th birthday
• Submit the Eagle Scout Rank Application to Council
• Complete an Eagle Board of Review

Thereafter
• Receive credentials
• Eagle Court of Honor
Eagle Mentors

Eagle Mentors help guide an Eagle candidate from Life to Eagle

- Not required but usually very helpful
- Your unit leader can assign a mentor
- Scouts earning Eagle receive a pin they can give to their mentor as a token of thanks

Eagle Mentors provide support on the entire process and are different from Eagle Service Project Coaches who provide only project advice
Detailed Requirements

Requirement 1
• Be an active participant for at least six months as a Life Scout

Requirement 2
• Scout Oath and Law in your daily life and duty to God
• Names and contact information for five to six references
  – parents/guardians, religious, educational, two others and employer (only if employed)
  – Send requests for letters of reference early. The WPC website has a template you can use
  – Letters are returned to a designated person in the unit
    • Never received by or transported by the candidate or relatives
  – Letters are reviewed by the Board of Review and then sent to Council. Nobody else may see them.
Detailed Requirements (cont)

Requirement 3
• Earn 21 merit badges, 13 of which are Eagle Required
• You will need to know the date each was earned and this will be verified against the Council’s records

Requirement 4
• While a Life Scout, serve in a qualifying leadership position for six months.
• You will need to list the positions you held and the dates you served
Detailed Requirements (cont)

Requirement 5
• While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school or your community
• You must have an officially appointed district representative involved to review and approve your project before beginning
• You must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook
• Service project details follow later in this class

Requirement 6
• While a Life Scout, participate in a Unit Leader Conference
  – Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Skipper
Remaining Steps

Certify your Application
- Sign to say it is true and correct and that you completed all requirements before you turned 18

Write a statement of ambitions and life purpose
- List positions you’ve held outside of scouting where you demonstrated leadership skills
- List honors and awards you’ve received
- Attach it to your application

Get signatures from your unit
- Unit Leader
- Unit Committee Chair
Remaining Steps

Submit your completed application to Council for review and signature
- Before you turn 18 or promptly afterwards
- Keep a photocopy
- Deliver originals to the Council Service Center in Hawthorne, NY
  - No appointment needed
  - They will verify dates, badges and signatures
  - Don’t have to include blue cards but needed if there are discrepancies
  - You’ll be notified when the application is signed and ready for pick up

Complete a Board of Review within three months of your 18th birthday
- Won’t be scheduled until the council has signed the application
- There will be three to six people on the Board
- In all cases, a district representative will be at least one of the six
- Each district has slightly different approaches
Eagle Court of Honor

Do not schedule a Court of Honor until successful completion of the Board of Review

An Eagle Board of Review is the last step, but Eagle is not officially awarded until the application is certified by National

• The signed application goes to Pat Elliot at Council
• Our Council Scout Executive signs
• Expect National approval within 1-2 weeks
• Expect credentials within 4-6 weeks

Eagle Courts of Honor are planned and conducted by units and families
The Service Project
Two Official Resources

Guide to Advancement

Service Project Workbook
What is the Point of a Project?

- Community service and positive impact on the beneficiary organization
- Demonstrate leadership and learn about different types of leadership
- Gain experience with planning and delegating
- Interact with adults in real world situations
- Be prepared, but nimbly handle unforeseen issues
- Assess what could have been done differently or better
Approvals are Critical

The most important guideline that an Eagle candidate must follow is to get approvals on their Project Proposal before beginning detailed planning and work.

To be approved, a Project Proposal requires signatures from:
- Unit leader
- Unit committee
- Beneficiary
- Officially appointed district representative

The process and the approvals take lots of time. Plan ahead! Plan way ahead! Do not get close to your 18th birthday to start planning.
Phases of a Project

Projects happen in phases and Scouts must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook for each phase

- Proposal
- Plan
- Fundraising Application and Fundraising (if relevant)
- Do the Project
- Report

- The completed package will be submitted to and reviewed by to the Eagle Board of Review
Proposal Phase

• Project must be helpful to any religious institution, school or your community
  – Not the BSA, individuals or for profit entities
  – Routine labor (e.g. lawnmowing) not normally permitted
• Must present an opportunity for planning, development and leadership
• Ok if fundraising is needed, but the project itself may not be a fundraiser
• See the Eagle Project Workbook and Guide to Advancement
Proposal Phase (cont.)

- Find a project at a qualified beneficiary. Take “before” pictures at the site.
- Discuss with unit leadership
- Complete the Project Proposal section of the Workbook
- Contact your district advancement chair who will explain the district review process
  – see Key Contacts at the front of this presentation
- Get all four signatures on the Proposal
  – Unit Leader, Unit Committee, Beneficiary, District
Planning Phase

- Only after receiving full approval on your Proposal, fill out the Project Plan section of the Workbook
- Work with your coach, beneficiary and district representative
- Plan dates and times, tasks, equipment, tools, safety, food, etc.
- Recruit scouts, friends and classmates
Fundraising Phase

• If fundraising is required, prepare the application
  – Approval required from beneficiary, unit leader and Council
  – Submit for review at least two weeks before the fundraiser
  – WPC Advancement Committee policy is that approval is not required for fundraisers of less than $500

• Money raised is raised on behalf of the beneficiary organization and any gift acknowledgements must come from the organization
  – Monies are deposited with beneficiary organization or unit until needed
  – Leftover funds go to the beneficiary organization
Safety and Insurance

• All Eagle Scout service projects constitute an official Scouting activity and are subject to BSA policies and procedures
  – Two deep leadership required
  – Guide to Safe Scouting applies
    • https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/
    • See Appendix for lists of tools and equipment that may be used by scouts of different ages
  – “Sweet 16 of BSA Safety” must also be consulted during planning
    • www.scouting.org/scoutsource/healthandsafety/sweet16.aspx
  – Do not engage in prohibited activities

• The Boy Scouts of America General Liability Policy provides general liability insurance coverage for official Scouting activities as outlined at https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss10/
Project Phase

• Follow your plan
• Lead – at least two other people
• Anticipate and develop solutions to unexpected developments
• Take pictures along the way and at the end
• Have fun!
Reporting Phase

• When the project is complete, use the Project Report to summarize what you did
• You’ll need to include pictures
• Projects will be evaluated by the Beneficiary and Unit Leader for impact, leadership and evidence of planning and development
  – Get signatures from Beneficiary and Unit Leader
• The entire workbook, not just the Report, gets attached to your Eagle Rank Application
Eagle Project Coaches

A Project Coach provides advice and guidance on the project
• Not required, but helpful
• Eagle Mentors are different and help with Life to Eagle in general

Requirements to be a coach
• Be registered with the BSA (in any position)
• Have taken BSA Youth Protection training
• An adult in the scout’s unit is best but district or council okay, too

Additional information regarding coaches
• Guide to Advancement 9.0.2.9 "Eagle Scout Service Project Coach"
• Application: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-069.pdf
  – Our council doesn’t require this coach application to be submitted or council approval, but the application has some useful information
Covid-19 Considerations

- No in person activities or meetings until further notice
- Virtual activities
  - Meetings
  - Scoutmaster conferences
  - Boards of Review (special Eagle BoR rules on next page)
- Eagle considerations (only through September 30, 2020)
  - If Covid-19 disruptions are the only circumstances that delayed completion of work before turning 18, the, the WPC Scout Executive can approve extensions of time of up to 3 months
    - Only available to Scouts who already obtained Life
    - If approved, must attach to your application a copy of the email you receive from the Scout Executive
  - Once scout turns 18, he/she must submit adult application, submit to background check and complete Youth Protection Training
Covid-19 (continued)

• Scouts approaching their 18th birthday who are not already Life Scouts must work quickly and may not be eligible for automatic extensions.

• Special rules exist for scouts, including female scouts who joined in 2019. “Inaugural Class” boards of review could have been dated as early as October 2020; now pushed to January 2021.
• Eagle Boards of Review
  – The WPC Scout Executive together with the Advancement Committee Chair can and generally will approve virtual Eagle Boards of Review at this time
  – Pay particular attention to Guide to Advancement sections 8.0.1 and 8.0.3
    • inclusive of 8.0.1.6 “Board of Review through Videoconferencing”
  – Have two video sessions and two passwords so the Board can meet and discuss recommendations in advance
  – Do not email recommendations to members of the Board of Review
    • Written recommendations must be returned to the council
    • Council will destroy them after credentials are issued