

A Brief Guide for Participating on an Eagle Scout Board of Review

Whether you're a first-time Board member, or have been on so many you've lost count, please take the time to read this guide.

What is an Eagle Scout Board of Review?

Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Scout may achieve. Completing a Board of Review is the last requirement for a Scout to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The Board consists of 3-6 adults and is led by a Chairperson selected by the District to represent the District. A Scout's parent/guardian or Unit Leader cannot be on his/her Board.

The Board's responsibility is to ensure that all other requirements have been met. However, it is not their responsibility to determine if the way a requirement was completed met the Board members' personal standards. Though we have high expectations for our Scouts, as for ourselves, we do not insist on perfection. The Board's job is to determine if the Scout did what was supposed to have been done to meet the requirements, and the Board must agree unanimously. Only in the most egregious cases where it was clear that the Scout could not have possibly completed a requirement would the Board be justified in determining that the Scout should not be advanced.

For a Scout to be scheduled for an Eagle Scout Board of Review in our District, the completion of the requirements will have already been reviewed by the Scout, the Unit Leader, the Unit Committee, and the District Advancement Chair. The Board is essentially tasked with the last approval step before the application is presented to our Council Executive for final approval and submission to the National Council.

What are the Eagle Scout requirements?

(shortened for brevity – see the Scout Handbook for full official requirements)

1. Be active in your troop for at least six months as a Life Scout.
2. As a Life Scout, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
Provide the names of 5-6 individuals who are willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, including parents/guardians, religious (if not affiliated with an organized religion, then the parent or guardian), educational, employer (if employed), and two other people.
3. Earn a total of 21 merit badges including 13 required merit badges (see Scout Handbook for the list).
4. While a Life Scout, serve actively in your troop for six months in one or more of the Eagle-approved positions of responsibility (does not need to be continuous months).
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.
6. While a Life Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference. Prepare and attach to your Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement of your ambitions, life purpose, and a listing of leadership positions outside of Scouting.
7. Successfully complete your Board of Review for the Eagle Scout rank.

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What kind of questions should the Board ask the Scout?

The Board of Review is not a retest or examination, nor a challenge of the Scout's knowledge. In most cases it should, instead, be a celebration of accomplishment. Refer to the candidate's Application form and Service Project Workbook to see what the Scout has accomplished. Refer to the Scout's Letters of Recommendation when discussing Requirement #2.

Questions should provide the candidate opportunity to recall and reflect on his/her experiences as a Scout. Typical things Board members might ask are where and when were skills learned by the Scout, who the Scout's teachers were, and what was personally gained from fulfilling certain requirements. Open-ended questions should be used, such as asking WHY something was a favorite activity/merit badge/camp destination/etc.

In addition to discussion of his/her successes and experiences, it is appropriate to discuss his/her future plans. Refer to the Scout's written statement of ambitions, life purpose and leadership positions outside of Scouting to help guide the discussion.

The Scout may be asked to provide feedback of the Scouting program. The Aims and Methods of Scouting are a good frame of reference. Often a Scout's perspective on these topics help Board members to understand if their local Scouting programs are being effective and identify potential areas for improvement.

The 4 Aims of Scouting:

- 1- Character development
- 2- Leadership development
- 3- Citizenship training
- 4- Personal fitness

The 8 Methods of Scouting:

- 1- The Ideals of the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan
- 2- The Patrol Method
- 3- The Outdoors
- 4- Advancement
- 5- Association with Adults
- 6- Personal Growth
- 7- Leadership Development
- 8- The Uniform

Notes:

This guide is based on the Guide to Advancement 2019, Troop Leader Resources, and insights from Scouting Magazine articles by Bryan Wendell. Although it has been researched for accuracy, it is not intended to supersede the current official BSA's Guide to Advancement.