

From Life Scout to Eagle Scout



Scouts earning Life Rank have important stepping stones that need to be complete before obtaining the Rank of Eagle Scout. As scouts approach their 18th birthday, we encourage them to continue to work hard to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

It is important to complete the needed requirements and paperwork in a timely manner. The following are the needed requirements.

- Earn 21 Merit Badges, including 14 required
 - First Aid
 - Citizenship in Community
 - Citizenship in Nation
 - Citizenship in World
 - Citizenship in Society
 - Communication
 - Cooking
 - **Personal Fitness****
 - Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
 - Environmental Science OR Sustainability
 - **Personal Management****
 - Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
 - Camping
 - **Family Life****
- ** These merit badges take at least 3 months to complete**
- Life Scouts must serve **six months in a unit leadership position** after receiving the rank of Life
 - Eagle Scout Service Project - Plan, develop and give leadership to others
 - An Eagle Project cannot be started (including fundraising) before council approval.
 - If a scout plans to fundraise for their project, a Fundraising Application must be completed and approved prior to fundraising.
 - Complete an **approved** Eagle Project that includes the following:
 - Project Proposal should be completed in detail and submitted to the District Advancement Committee by dropping it off at the Council Service Center.
 - **Wash Co. District Advancement Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month.**
 - **Tuscarora District/Great Cove picks up proposals as needed.**
 - Once the project is approved a committee member will contact your scout to let them know the project packet can be picked up at the council office.
 - Final Project Plan should be completed following approval of the Project Proposal in preparation for the competition of the project.
 - Complete their ES Service Project
 - Final Project Report should be completed after the project is complete.
 - Complete the Eagle application and turn into the Council Service Center. It is preferred that it is presented in a small 3 ring binder with pockets
 - The Eagle application must be completed and signed
 - A scout's statement of life goals (Eagle Scout Requirement #6) and ambitions
 - The original approved project proposal, final plan and final report must be turned in.

- o Names must be provided, FULL addresses, & email addresses of six individuals who would be willing to recommend the scout. (If not employed, employer can be left blank). We do not call references. We must have written references. The religious reference CANNOT be left blank. This person can be a pastor, youth pastor, parent, relative, or someone who can attest to the Scout being reverent.
 - Confidential letters of recommendation (The Council requests these letters from the list that the Scout provides on his Eagle application. **The Scout should request permission to use each individual as a reference . . . A Scout is Courteous.**)
- Once the Eagle Application is turned into the council office, the council sends letters to the names listed as References. There MUST be at least 3 letters of reference in order for the Application process to proceed.
- When the 3 letters of reference are received the packet is reviewed by the Wash. Co. Advancement Committee on a 1st Thursday of a month. Tuscarora & Great Cove Districts will pick up and review as needed.
- After review and approvals are made, an Advancement Committee member will contact the Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, or Advancement Chair to set up the Eagle Board of Review for the scout.

3 Critical Points:

- o All Eagle requirements *must* be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday.
- o Eagle Board of Review may take place up to three months after the Scout's 18th birthday. Extensions *may* be approved, but only for extenuating circumstances.
- o Once an Eagle Scout application has been processed, certified and 3 or more references are received by the office, it is reviewed by the appropriate district and the Scoutmaster is then contacted to set up the Board of Review.
- o The Washington County Advancement Committee meets **only once a month** on the first Thursday
- o Tuscarora & Great Cove pick up, review and schedule BOR's as needed.

What can parents and Scouts do to expedite this process?

- o Be aware of time constraints and be realistic about the project.
- o Discuss requirements, set goals, agree to a schedule to accomplish goals and stick to it
- o Discuss Troop leadership and Scout spirit with your Scoutmaster
- o Determine the best time to earn certain Merit Badges
- o Provide encouragement
- o Communicate

The National BSA Office and the Mason-Dixon Council Office stand firm to their deadlines. Please don't let paperwork stop your scout from obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Many scouts wait till the last minute to complete the needed paperwork and find they are taking their Eagle paperwork to the council office days before their 18th birthday. Please don't let this happen to your scouts!

The Mason Dixon Council offers a Life to Eagle Seminar 2 times a year (typically in September & February) for Life Scouts, Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members and anyone looking to gain more information about the process from Life Scout to Eagle Scout. If you have any questions about requirements or the process from Life to Eagle, please feel free to contact a member of the Wash. Co., Tuscarora or Great Cove Advancement Committees, or the Mason Dixon Council Scout Office.

Eagle Scouts are recognized as an elite group! Let's encourage all scouts to become one of them.

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