



# ***Life to Eagle Seminar***

Fall 2022

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***Please Mute Your Microphones***



## ***A Note on Requirements***

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### **Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**

- No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from advancement requirements.
- There are limited exceptions, but relating only to members with special needs.



# Eagle Scout Requirements

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While a Life Scout...

- Be active\* in your troop for at least six months.
- Demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Earn 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle required badges.
- Serve actively in one or more positions of responsibility while a life scout for 6 months.
- Plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or your community – **can't be the BSA.**
- Participate in a Scoutmaster conference – **all of the above before age 18.**
  - Prepare an Eagle Scout Rank Application
  - Prepare a statement of your ambitions and life purpose, incl a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which you demonstrated leadership skills.
  - Include honors and awards received during the above service.
- Successfully complete an Eagle Board of Review – **Can be done after age 18.**

**Has to be  
done before  
Age 18**



## ***Exceptions: Impact of COVID-19 on Requirements***

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- **Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?**
- Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in [GTA Topic 4.2.3.1](#).
- **Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?**
- Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See [GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,”](#) with its six subtopics.



## ***Exceptions: Age Extensions***

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- Councils have been delegated the authority to approve age extensions up to six months.
- Tests for granting an age extension:
  1. You had enough time to make it to Eagle before an incident hit
  2. Through no fault of the scout, an unforeseen circumstance or life-changing event with severe consequences has come to exist that now precludes completion of the requirements before the deadline
  3. The circumstance is beyond the control of the Scout, could not have been anticipated or planned for, and did not or cannot be resolved in time to complete the requirements
- There is a requirement to detail what you have done prior to the extension request and what still needs to be done.
- You will need to describe your project, the reason for the delay, the rationale for how much extra time you are requesting, and provide a current advancement report
- If granted an age extension...
  - **Upon turning 18**, the Scout must **submit a completed adult application and successfully complete Youth Protection Training** – Their participant code will be Unit Participant (UP) for Scouts BSA, or Venturing Participant (VP) for Venturing and Sea Scouting.



# *Eagle Scout Service Project*

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## **Before you can do a project you need to:**

- Select a project in concert with a benefitting organization
- Receive the benefitting organization's and your troop's approval
- Fill out the BSA workbook: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-scout-workbook/>
  - Work with a *Project Coach* (**really really really should not be a parent**)
- Have your Unit and Beneficiary sign off on the proposal
- Send the proposal to your Unit's District Rep for approval **after the Unit has approved it**



# ***National Pike District Advancement Reps***

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- National Pike District Advancement Representatives
  - Abby Brown
  - Duncan Brown
  - Gus Larsson
  - Ruben Payan
  - Renee Seymour
- Each of the representatives listed above is assigned to multiple Troops as a National Pike Advancement Committee (NPAC) primary Point of Contact (POC) and secondary POC
  - Units should have the assignment listings



## ***Project Proposal - What do you Submit to your District Rep?***

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- Completed and signed Workbook (fillable version)
- Diagrams/drawings/plans
- Pictures (reduced size images please)
- Signature page (scanned)
- Fundraising page (scanned)

All must be submitted electronically **via email** for review



## Scout's Email to their Troop's District Rep

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- The email **from the Scout** should include the following:

Subject line: Request for Eagle Project Proposal Review and Approval – Scout Name, Troop #

*Dear Mr./Ms. XXX,*

*My name is XXX and I am a Scout in Troop XXX. Attached please find my Eagle Project Proposal and a scan of the signature page(s). It is requested that my proposal be reviewed and approved.*

*Thank you,*

*Scouts Name*

**Scouts MUST follow youth protection guidelines and include at least one adult from their family or unit on all emails.**



## ***Project Proposal Review Process***

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- We review and approve workbook proposals on a rolling basis.
- After your Unit's NPAC POC feels the workbook is ready for approval, they will forward it and the signature pages to another NPAC member for review.
- If the other NPAC member agrees with the recommendation for approval, your Unit's POC will electronically send back an approval letter and electronically sign the Scout's workbook.
- Turn around time is generally within 2 weeks unless significant modifications are required on the part of the Scout.



## ***Eagle Project Approval Criteria***

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Eagle Scout projects are evaluated primarily on impact: the extent of benefit to the religious institution, school, or community, i.e., giving back to the community, and on the leadership to be provided by the candidate.

- *The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the Eagle Scout service project requirement.*
- *The project appears to be feasible.*
- ***Safety issues are addressed.***
- *Actions for further detailed planning are included.*
- ***Fundraising by itself is NOT an Eagle project***



# *Project Proposal - What Are We Looking For?*

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- Answer the questions in the workbook
  - Provide sentences with correct spelling and grammar!
- Provide the information specified
  - Tools are listed as tools, supplies are listed as supplies, etc.
  - Safety issues are addressed (see next slide)
- Elaborate as necessary to show...
  - *The proposal has been thought out and researched sufficiently such that the Scout understands what s/he is getting into, and the benefitting organization knows what they are receiving.*



## ***Project Proposal - Safety Section***

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If appropriate, *for construction efforts*, the proposal should state:

- *All participants will wear eye protection and work gloves,*
- *No work will be performed by Scouts above a height of 6 feet,*
- *Scouts age 14 and older may use use: screwdrivers, small handheld sanders, cutting tools such as a Dremel tool, and small handheld power drills,*
- *Only adults will use chop saws, table saws, routers, chain saws, etc.,*

The end of the safety section of the proposal should **always** have the following statements:

- *I will note the physical location of the project in case 911 needs to be called,*
- *I will note the location of the nearest hospital in case we need to take someone to the emergency room,*
- *A first aid kit will be on hand,*
- *I and my volunteers will follow COVID 19 restrictions in place at the time of the project that may include the wearing of masks, use of disinfectants, and social distancing, and*
- *I will check the Guide to Safe Scouting before embarking on the project."*



# More on Safety

<b>AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES— PROJECT TOOL USE</b>	 <b>Lions / Tigers with Adult Partner</b>	 <b>Wolf / Bear</b>	 <b>Webelos</b>	 <b>Scouts BSA</b>	<b>Older Scouts BSA* Sea Scouts Venturers</b>
<b>Yard Tools</b>					
<b>Rakes, hoes, shovels, small clippers, handheld (gardening) shovels, trowels</b>		√	√	√	√
<b>Pickaxes, mattocks, post-hole diggers, carts, dollies, wheelbarrows</b>				√	√
<b>Lawn mowers, line trimmers, edgers, hedge trimmers</b>					√
<b>Riding mowers, tractors, or other equipment</b>					<b>Adult Use Only</b>
<b>Chain saws (21+ years old with proper training**), log splitters, woodchippers</b>					<b>Adult Use Only</b>



# More on Safety

<b>AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES— PROJECT TOOL USE</b>	 <b>Lions / Tigers with Adult Partner</b>	 <b>Wolf / Bear</b>	 <b>Webelos</b>	 <b>Scouts BSA</b>	<b>Older Scouts BSA* Sea Scouts Venturers</b>
<b>Wood- and Metal-Working Tools</b>					
<b>Hammers, screwdrivers, wood sanding blocks</b>		√	√	√	√
<b>Pocket or wood-carving knives***</b>		Bear only	√	√	√
<b>Handsaws, wood chisels, wood planes, brace and bits</b>				√	√
<b>Small, handheld electric screwdrivers and palm sanders</b>				√	√
<b>Belt or large sanders (electric or cordless)</b>					√
<b>Welder****; circular, reciprocating, or radial saws; band or scroll saws; routers and planers; metal grinders; pressure washers; drill presses; branding irons</b>					<b>Adult Use Only</b>



# More on Safety

AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES—PROJECT TOOL USE	 Lions / Tigers with Adult Partner	 Wolf / Bear	 Webelos	 Scouts BSA	Older Scouts BSA* Sea Scouts Venturers
<b>Painting</b>					
Handheld paint brushes		√	√	√	√
Paint rollers			√	√	√
Paint rollers with extensions				√	√
Paint sprayers					√
<b>Elevated Work</b>					
Ladders or step stools (limited to the first 3 steps only)					√
Ladders or scaffold (4 feet or higher requires fall protection)					<b>Adult Use Only</b>



## ***Project Proposal - Reminder***

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- When you sign the workbook, you are signing that you have read the entire workbook.
  - You understand what is required.
  - You will do your best (anything less is NOT acceptable).
  - Your best effort starts with your workbook proposal submission.



## ***Eagle Project - Unit Commitment***

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- Eagle projects are part of your Unit's program.
  - The Unit is responsible for supporting the project.
- Tour plans are no longer required.



## ***Eagle Project - Benefitting Organization***

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- National has included a pull-out in the workbook for Benefitting Organizations to advise them of their rights and responsibilities.
  - They have the responsibility to support your project by allowing activities to be done at their location (if needed).
  - They can request changes if they don't like how the project is progressing.
  - They **do not** have to sign off that the project has been completed to their satisfaction if it has **NOT** been!

*It is a good idea to have drawings and detailed information/specifications so that all parties are on the same page!*



## ***Eagle Project - Fundraising***

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- Scouts may ask for cash donations from ONLY:
  - Family, friends, their Unit (troop, crew, etc.), Unit Charter Organization and its members
  - Benefiting Organization
    - A benefiting organization may give a Scout funds (whole or part) for his Eagle Project.
    - A Scout may work with the Benefiting Organization to solicit its members for funds to purchase specific materials for the project – not straight cash.
    - If members of the benefiting organization give cash, the Scout must associate those funds with a material item, e.g., lumber.

**A fundraising application is not required for the donations listed above**



# ***Project Proposal - Fundraising Application***

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- **If you raise funds from other than those listed on the previous page, you will need to submit a fundraising application**
- It is on Fundraising Application Page A in the Project Plan section of the workbook
- Fundraising Applications, if needed, should be submitted with your Project Proposal
  - **The Fundraising Application should match word for word the Preliminary Cost Estimate**
  - **That is, your proposal should be internally consistent**
- Fundraising can involve both monetary and material donations



## ***Eagle Project Coach***

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- Because some Scouts choose projects which require specialized skills or knowledge, National created a position called an Eagle Project Coach
  - It is highly preferred that the Scout's parent not be the Scout's Eagle Project Coach
- The Coach advises
  - The Scout, the Unit, and the Benefitting Organization
- Works with the Eagle Candidate
  - Makes sure the proposal realistically covers the expectations for the project **prior** to submission for District review
  - Advises the candidate through the project



## ***Eagle Project – Number of Hours***

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- Scouts should record all hours spent on the project by themselves and all others involved in the project
- This includes
  - Hours creating the project proposal and plan
  - Hours collaborating with the beneficiary, troop leadership, and district point of contact for the project proposal and plan
  - Hours executing the project (includes the scout, and youth and adult volunteers)
  - Hours creating the project report



# ***Documentation, Documentation, Documentation***

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- During the proposal, planning and report phases
- And... after the scout has finished the project and all of its documentation
- Scoutmaster Conference – what to bring??
  - Eagle Application,
  - Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose form filled out
    - With listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which you demonstrated leadership skills, and
    - Honors and awards received during this service.



## ***Info on the Trail to Eagle***

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National Pike District website

- <https://baltimorebsa.org/nationalpike/>

Baltimore Area Council website

- <https://baltimorebsa.org/>

Eagle Web Page

- <https://baltimorebsa.org/eaglescoutinfo/>



## ***After the SM Conference, What do you turn in to Council?***

- Eagle Application signed by your Scoutmaster with...
  - Copies of all rank pages from your Scout Handbook
  - Copies of all your blue cards (in the order as they appear on the Eagle Application)

Or

- Eagle Application signed by your Scoutmaster with...
  - A Copy of your internet advancement report\* with all merit badges and advancements included

\* A Troopmaster report, signed by the unit advancement chair, which includes all merit badges and rank advancements may be submitted in place of the internet advancement report

### **Do NOT turn in:**

- **The Eagle Service Project workbook**
- **The statement of ambitions and life purpose**



Preferred



## ***Turning in the Eagle Application in the Time of COVID-19***

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- If sent via USPS, the application must be sent via registered mail, addressed to:
  - Baltimore Area Council
  - 701 Wyman Park
  - Baltimore, MD 21211
  - Attn: Denise Shoemaker
- If sent by email **(this method is preferred)**
  - Email is to be sent by the Scout, parents, or unit leadership
  - If the sender is the Scout, they MUST include their parent and unit leadership on the cc line of the email to satisfy youth protection requirements
  - Send mail to: Denise Shoemaker [Denise.Shoemaker@scouting.org](mailto:Denise.Shoemaker@scouting.org)
  - Subject must include: Eagle Scout Application – Name of Scout
  - Email must include the following attachments:
    - Scanned copy of the completed and signed application (signatures can be scans)
    - Scans or pdf of supporting documentation
      - Advancement report or
      - Copies of rank pages/blue cards



## ***Once the Application has been Turned in to Council...***

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- The Baltimore Area Council processes applications as they are turned in
  - Applications are normally processed within 2 weeks
  - If there are discrepancies, it can take longer
- When the application has been “verified”, it is sent to the District Advancement Chair and the scout is notified by email
- The District Advancement Chair then posts the verified applications to a google drive that ONLY the District Advancement Reps have access to



## What the Scout gets back from Council

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An email will be sent by Council to the Scout using the email address on the application – so make the email legible!

- The email will say your application has been verified
- Or, the email will point out issues with the application



**It doesn't say – you can schedule your Board of Review**



## ***Before an Eagle Board of Review (EBOR) can be Scheduled...***

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- References are identified by the scout (on the Eagle Application)
- Reference Letters
  - Usually requested by the Scout, but can be requested by the Unit (there's a form for this)
  - Are to be returned to and received by the Unit's Advancement Chair
  - Four – six weeks is the *polite* amount of time to allow references to respond
- Stamped return envelopes should be provided with the reference request.
- The return envelopes are to be addressed to the Troop Advancement Chair, and have in the bottom left corner "Re: Scout's name" so that if the Troop Advancement Chair is waiting on reference letters for multiples scouts, s/he knows which ones have been received.
- Reference letters are **not** to be requested until all Eagle requirements have been completed and the Eagle application has been turned into Council.
- Reference letters are never read by or given to the Scout unless the person providing the reference provides it to the Scout.



## ***What if Reference Letters are not Received?***

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- If one or several references are not responding, the Unit (not the scout) should contact the prospective reference and gently remind them that a reference letter is needed.
- In some cases we can move forward with an EBOR with only 3-4 references, but only if multiple requests have been made for the reference letters.
- Once the reference letters are received (generally 4-6 of them), an EBOR can be scheduled.



## ***Scheduling the EBOR***

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- Your Unit Advancement Chair will contact its NPAC POC requesting their availability
- They will then check on the availability of the scout and potential EBOR members
- EBOR will have 3-6 persons including the NPAC POC
- Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters may not serve on a EBOR for a scout in their troop and are also discouraged from being in the BOR room

During the COVID 19 crisis we have been conducting virtual EBORs



# The EBOR

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- Board members should be in Scout uniforms or casual business attire.
- The Scout is to wear:
  - a Scout uniform (no OA sash), or nice clothes with a jacket and tie.
- The EBOR Q&A with the scout should last about 30 – 45 minutes unless there is a problem.
  - If there is a problem, the board will be **paused** and reconvened at a later date.
- The Scout must bring the following to his/her EBOR:
  - A copy of their completed Eagle Workbook with appropriate signatures by the Unit Leader and Beneficiary,
  - Their Scout handbook appropriately initialed,
  - A completed Life Ambitions and Purpose Statement, and
  - A completed Eagle Information Form (which replaces the Project Description Form).

Many Being Done Via Zoom



## ***In-Person Eagle BORs During COVID***

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- Everyone must be vaccinated
- If a person is not vaccinated, then they cannot be part of the Board
- If the scout is not vaccinated, then it must be virtual
- If a District Rep is not comfortable doing an in-person Eagle BOR, then it must be virtual unless someone else from the District is willing to do it in-person
- Masks shall be worn if conducted indoors regardless of vaccination status
- Outdoors is preferred



## ***EBOR - The Religious Question***

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- Duty to and belief in God – what does this mean?
  - Adherence to a set of spiritual principles, loyalty to a religion or belief that expresses them, and acceptance of the duties resulting from them.
  - A Scout can believe in any higher being, one of many religions, or a set of ethics and morals, and a way to live their life.
  - They should be compatible with the scout oath and law
  - **A Scout must also respect the beliefs of others – This is the second part of being reverent.**
  - Scouts BSA currently admits Scouts who are non-theistic Buddhists, Jains and Hindus, i.e., religions that do not focus on a belief in God, but rather focus on morals, ethics, deeds, and a way of living one's life.
  - A Scout not need attend church, or be of a certain religion to have a belief in God, or to be reverent.



## ***After the EBOR - What Next?***

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- What gets turned in to the Baltimore Area Council?
  - The verified Application signed and dated by the District Rep and the Board Chair
  - A completed Eagle Information Form (replaces the Project Description Form)
  - These can be emailed, mailed, or dropped off in person\*
- The BAC then sends the application off to National, National endorses it, sends *Eagle Credentials* to Council, and Council notifies the Unit Leader
  - The process takes approximately 4-6 weeks
- **The Scout's date of becoming an Eagle Scout is the date of a successful EBOR**

\*Currently Council is accepting electronic copies of the documents

- The subject of the email must include: EBOR Eagle Scout Application
- Email to Denise Shoemaker (Denise.Shoemaker@scouting.org)



## ***The 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday...***

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- **ALL** requirements for the rank of Eagle (not including the Eagle BOR) need to be completed **PRIOR** to a scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Scouts then have 24 months from their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to complete their EBOR
- To hold a board beyond 24 months after the 18th birthday, the candidate, the candidate's parent or guardian, the unit leader, or a unit committee member must submit a Belated Rank Application

***Lack of planning can mean finishing your  
scouting career as a Life Scout !***



# 101 Eagles

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- National Pike had 101 Eagles in 2021
- Will you be one in 2022?



# *Questions*

