

Saugahatchee District Eagle Advancement Information for Scoutmasters and Eagle Scout Candidates

New Eagle advancement procedures from the National Advancement Committee are effective January 1, 2012. The Saugahatchee District has adopted policies and procedures to implement these changes in our District. This document is an overview of the procedures we will follow. Please refer to the *BSA Guide to Advancement* and the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* for complete information about the guidelines from National. A copy of the District's policy concerning Eagle Advancement is also available from the District Executive or the District Advancement Chairman.

Eagle Projects

Eagle Project Proposal

Eagle project plans are no longer approved in advance by the Eagle Advancement Board. Instead, the Eagle Candidate is to write a "Project Proposal" using the form provided in the project workbook. Use of the form is mandatory. The actual "Plan" is written after the proposal is approved. The board of review will decide whether planning was sufficient and if the requirement was met. It is strongly recommended that the scout contact and work with an Eagle Project Coach (see below) throughout the project process. Contact a Coach to help with creating the proposal.

The proposal must be approved by the Unit Leader, Unit Committee, and Beneficiary. Once those approvals have been obtained, the Eagle candidate should contact the chairman of the Eagle Advancement Board to schedule a time to present the proposal to that committee. The Eagle Advancement Board normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Check the district website for dates.

The Eagle Candidate should contact the Chairman of The Eagle Advancement Board at least 10 days prior to the meeting where he would like to present his proposal in order to have his name on the agenda.

The Project Coach is encouraged, but not required, to attend the proposal review meeting; however, this will be for the purpose of observing and taking notes only, not participating in the interview process.

Eagle Project Coach

The district maintains a list of trained and certified Eagle Project Coaches, available from the District Advancement Chairman. Use of a Project coach is optional, but very strongly recommended. The purpose of the Coach is to be a resource for the Scout and to help insure that the Eagle project meets the requirement of the rank.

The Scout may choose any coach from the list of district approved coaches. The Scout may not choose a Coach that is related to the Scout.

The Scout should begin by calling his selected Coach, ask if he is available to serve as his Coach (Coaches are encouraged to work with one Scout at a time but no more than two at a time) and schedule an initial meeting. Regular communication between the Scout and the Coach is vital in this process.

The Coach will guide the Scout in the process of planning his project. The Scout should plan to meet several times with the Coach, beginning with creating the project proposal and especially between the time that his proposal is approved and the actual work on the project begins. It is important that the final project plan be reviewed by the Coach before work begins. This will help to insure that the Scout adequately completes the "Plan" and "Develop" requirements of the Eagle project.

Eagle Project Plan

The Guide to Advancement explains the way that Eagle Project Plans are handled. While project Proposals are approved by the Eagle Advancement Board in advance, the actual project plan is now evaluated at the Eagle Board of Review.

A Scout who follows the Scout Motto of “Be Prepared” will want to have an adequate plan in place prior to beginning the work on his project.

Eagle Scout Requirement #5 says “*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. (The project must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) A project proposal must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your unit leader and unit committee, and the council or district before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, No. 512-927, in meeting this requirement.*”

The Project proposal is the beginning of the plan but additional planning and development beyond the proposal will almost always be required to satisfy Eagle Requirement #5. It would be very rare for the project proposal alone to constitute “planning and development that was adequate to the project.”

The use of the official Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook is required. The Scout is required to fully complete the Proposal and Project report sections. The Scout is strongly encouraged to complete the final plan since it may be difficult for the Board of Review to see that planning was adequate to the project without the information specified in the Final Plan portion of the workbook.

It is the position of the district committee that, while it is possible, it will be very rare for a Scout to pass his Board of Review without completing the Final Plan portion of the workbook.

Fundraising Application

The Eagle Project workbook contains an “Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application.” It is important that the Scout read this application and understand when it is required. In general, it is required any time money or materials are being solicited or donated in any way. This includes asking a supplier to donate lumber, etc. The application must be signed by the Unit Leader, the Beneficiary representative, then submitted to the District for approval. No solicitation of funds or materials may be made prior to this application being approved by Council!

Service Project Report

After completing the project, the Scout should complete the “Eagle Scout Service Project Report” portion of the workbook and obtain the required signatures. The entire workbook along with any addendum or attachments should be submitted along with the Eagle Rank Application to the Council Registrar after all Eagle requirements have been met.

Eagle Rank Application

Completing and submitting the application

The Eagle Rank Application should be carefully completed and reviewed by both the Scout and the Unit Leader or Advancement Chairman. All information must be complete and all signatures in place.

The completed application, along with the following items, must be delivered to the Council Registrar by either the Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) or the Unit Committee Chairman.

The “Eagle Packet” should contain:

1. The current, official Eagle Rank Application, fully completed and signed.
2. Letters of recommendation from each reference listed on the application. They should be in sealed envelopes.
3. The Scout’s statement of Ambition and Life Purpose (requirement 6).
4. The Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, fully completed with required signatures and any necessary attachments (photos, etc).

Application Review

The Guide to Advancement very clearly outlines the procedure for completing and submitting the Eagle Rank Application and the other documentation that is required. The District Advancement Committee Chairman is available to review the application and other documentation to insure that there are no unforeseen problems. We strongly encourage each Scoutmaster to take advantage of this service. Contact the District Advancement Chairman after the application has been verified by the Council Service Center but prior to the board of review.

This additional review of the application is entirely optional but is offered as a service and is intended to help prevent a Scout from reaching his board of review only to be denied because of errors or omissions on the application. The board of review is prohibited from passing an Eagle candidate where there are errors, omissions, or other problems with the application or supporting documentation.

Eagle Board of Review

After the “Eagle Packet” is complete, it should be delivered by the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair to the Council Service Center for certification. Once the application is certified, the Eagle Candidate is ready for his Board of Review.

The Scoutmaster should contact the Chairman of The Eagle Advancement Board at least 10 days prior to their regular meeting where the Scout would like to have a Board of Review. The Eagle Advancement Board normally meets on the third Thursday of each month. Check the district website for dates.