

## Demystifying the Trek to Eagle

The first four ranks in the Boy Scouting program are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. These frame the development of basic Scouting skills.

The last three ranks (Star, Life and Eagle) focus on leadership, character and breadth of knowledge.

How long does it take? Absolute minimum time would be 17 months: 30 days to get Tenderfoot; 4 months to get Star and 6 months each to earn Life and Eagle. In practice, however, it takes an active Scout about a year to get to First class and about a year each for the upper 3 ranks. Speed is not as important as the experience.

Steps to get from Life to Eagle:

1. Attend the Life to Eagle seminar given the first Tuesday of each month (Scout must phone Mr. Winter at 945-6162 by the previous Monday for an appointment)
2. Earn 21 merit badges in the correct categories. These must include: Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Nation and World, Communications, Environmental Science, First Aid, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, Personal Management, Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling, and Family Life plus 9 more of the Scout's choice.

To earn a merit badge (1) Ask the Scoutmaster for a Blue Card and get a buddy. (2) ask our troop coordinator who teaches the merit badge (if he/she cannot identify one in our troop, call Dr. Oakleaf at 370-8332). (3) call the councilor and meet with him/her until all requirements are completed. (4) bring your completed blue card to the Troopmaster database person for entry and (5) give it to the Advancement Chairperson (for recording at the district and for safekeeping). The councilor will keep one part of the card.

3. Hold a position of responsibility (troop leadership) for 6 months. Like for earlier ranks, the Scout must attend at least 80% of all meetings and outings, attend Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) meetings, take training, and must actively do his leadership position.
4. Demonstrate Scout Spirit. This is not a trivial item. A Scout must live by the Scout Oath and Law, and the Scoutmaster may refuse to sign off on this making the Scout ineligible for the rank of Eagle. Character is perhaps the most important part of the rank of Eagle.
5. Plan and give leadership to others in a service project of benefit to a church, school or the community. The Scout must (1) Discuss his idea with his Scoutmaster and the troop's Eagle Advancement Chairperson. (2) write it up in such detail that an intelligent first class Scout could do the project with only the write up to guide him. (3) get signatures in his Eagle Leadership Workbook (gotten at #1 above) from the representative of the community agency being served, the Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee Chair (or Eagle Advancement Chair). (4) contact the district Project review chair (Jeanne Fuson 934-6411) no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month for a project review board usually held the second Tuesday of each month. (5) attend a board of review; The board will review the write up and approve or make suggestions before final approval. (6) Only

AFTER the board approval can the project be done. (7) when the project is done, get it signed off by the agency contact and the Scoutmaster.

6. Complete the Eagle Rank Application form. This has several parts including: (1) request confirmation of advancement records from the Council office (2) request letters of recommendation from your parents, religious leader, a teacher, an employer (if any) and two other people. Letters should be in sealed envelopes and may be sent to leaders for confidentiality. NOTE: if the Scout is not a member of a church, the parent may sign as the religious leader and the Scout must write a "Statement of Religious Belief" (3) write a short essay on of Life Goals and Ambitions, list positions held and list honors and awards, and (4) get a Scoutmaster conference. All must be done and signed no later than the day BEFORE the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. All of this will be discussed at the Life to Eagle meeting (Step #1 above)
7. Contact Mr. Beaudrow 682-5578 or cell 963-8249. Binders must be turned in to him between 7 pm and 8pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 100 North Gate Road (LDS Chapel) for a District Board of Review usually held the third Tuesday of each month.

If the district board approves the application, board members sign the form and they are sent to National. The Scout is an Eagle Scout from the date of his board (unless it gets bounced – usually for technical errors that can be fixed). If the board rejects the application, the Scout is told why and may apply again or petition the decision.

About 2 months after the board, the application will return from National with confirmation. The Scoutmaster is notified and he or the Committee Chair or an Advancement Chair goes to the Council office to pick up the packet and purchase the awards.

Our troop traditionally gives the Eagle Scout the full presentation packet, his first membership in NESAs, an special embroidered Eagle Neckerchief, and a flag that has been flown over the national capital. In addition, when the Court has been planned, we send letters to many local and national dignitaries with invitations and request for letters of congratulations.

The Eagle court is a National Eagle Court of Honor, but in the past, this troop has had the parents of the Eagle or Eagles to be honored plan it. Families from the troop assist as requested and may help with decorations, publicity, refreshments or whatever the parents of the Eagle(s) request. There is a nice book *The Eagle Court of Honor* by Mark Ray which I can loan you when your son is ready for his Eagle Court.

Additional details about the Life to Eagle process may be found on the district website at <http://users.isp.com/remer/EagleStuff.html>

Questions? Call me, Lillian Remer at 935-8707 (evenings and weekends) or e-mail me at [remer@isp.com](mailto:remer@isp.com)