

# **YANKEE CLIPPER COUNCIL EAGLE SCOUT RANK REQUIREMENTS**

*“A Guide for Scouts, Scout Leaders and Parents”*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is to provide some additional guidance to Life Scouts, their parents and Scout Leaders regarding the specific requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. It is important to remember that the information presented in this outline, and all referenced documents, is in no way intended to, and does not, supersede or modify the official Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures of the Boy Scouts of America (as of this writing Publication Number 33088, Copyright 1989 BSA, current printing). This material is only intended to serve as general guidance to assist with interpretation of Scouting requirements as implemented by the Yankee Clipper Council (YCC).

It is important for all Scouters to understand that the following policy of the Boy Scouts of America applies to all phases of the Scouting program including rank advancement:

*No local council Cub Scouter, Varsity Scouter, Exploring leader, or Scouter shall have authority to increase or diminish requirements and standards established by the Corporation.*

*Article VI. Clause 4.  
Bylaws, Boy Scouts of America*

## Eagle Requirement #1

**Be active in your Troop and Patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout.**

- As long as the Scout is active for six months after becoming a Life Scout, it is not required that he be active for the six month period immediately preceding his Board of Review for Eagle Scout or that the six months of activity be consecutive.
- A Scout is considered “active” in his unit if he is:
  1. Registered in his unit (registration fees are current).
  2. Not dismissed from his unit for disciplinary reasons.
  3. Engaged by his unit leadership on a regular basis (informed of unit activities through Scoutmaster conference or personal contact, etc.).

## Eagle Requirement #2

**Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.**

- Scout spirit is defined as the Scout living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life. (The Scoutmaster Handbook recommends that living the Scout Oath and Law in a Scout’s everyday life be discussed at every Scoutmaster conference all along the Scouting advancement trail. This reinforces the idea of actually making these principles a part of a Scout’s daily habits, not just at Troop meetings and activities.)
- When determining whether a Scout is living the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life, it is important to realize that the Scout is human and may make mistakes, just like his Scout Leaders and other adults who will sit on his Board of Review. It is unreasonable to expect perfection, yet at the same time, if there are serious concerns in this area, *it is possible for a Scout to fail to meet this requirement.*
- Many times, the Troop’s only association with a Scout may be at Troop meetings and activities. The references for the Eagle Scout rank may be used as an indicator that the Scout lives by Scouting principles in other areas of his life. District Advancement Committees may request that Troops secure letters from the references to bring to the Eagle Scout Board of Review. Please note that it is the responsibility of the Troop adult leadership to secure the letters, not the Eagle Scout candidate. The national guidelines state that, *“The candidate should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as references ...”*
- When an Eagle Scout candidate is told that he fails to demonstrate Scout spirit in his everyday life, **it is commonly found that the Troop should have dealt with the issue earlier -- usually several ranks earlier.** For example, a Scout who is

not trustworthy or obedient usually does not develop this problem just prior to the Eagle Scout Board of Review. For a Troop to postpone dealing with a Scout spirit problem until it becomes imperative to do so at the time of Eagle Scout advancement results in a disservice to the Scout. *However, the fact that it was not dealt with does not exempt the Scout from fulfilling this requirement for Eagle Scout.*

### **Eagle Requirement #3**

**Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than you already have), including the following: (1) Camping, (2) Citizenship in the Community, (3) Citizenship in the Nation, (4) Citizenship in the World, (5) Communications, \*(6) Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving, (7) Environmental Science, (8) First Aid, \*(9) Cycling OR Hiking OR Swimming, (10) Personal Management, (11) Personal Fitness, and (12) Family Life.**

**\* Scouts must choose only one merit badge listed in items (6) and (9). If they have earned more than one of the badges listed in (6) and (9), they must choose one to use as a required badge, and the optional badges may be listed to make the total of 21.**

- Eagle Scout candidates cannot be required to earn merit badges other than those listed above.
- All merit badges must be earned with an approved merit badge counselor. According to Clause 13, Article X. of the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, "*The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badge counselor approved by the local council and district advancement committee. Merit badge counselors shall be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America.*"
- *Please see the Yankee Clipper Council Merit Badge Counselor Requirements for detailed guidance and resources related to YCC approved Merit Badge Counselors.*

### **Eagle Requirement #4**

**While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of 6 months in one or more of the officially designated troop/unit positions of responsibility.**

- If a Scout serves actively in one or more of the listed positions for 6 months as a Life Scout without being removed from the position, the Troop must give the Scout credit for fulfilling the requirement, even if the Scout was not effective in the position. Fulfilling this requirement is not dependent on how effective the Scout is as a leader, only that he served actively in the position.

- The traditional way that this requirement is fulfilled is by serving in one position for the entire six months. A Scout may also fulfill this requirement by serving in more than one position. However, he must serve in the position(s) during six different months after earning the Life Scout rank.

## **Eagle Requirement #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. The project idea must be approved by your Scoutmaster, your troop committee, the beneficiary of the project, and approved by the council or district before you start.**

- *Please see the sections of the Yankee Clipper Council Eagle Scout Advancement Guidelines that relate specifically to the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project for detailed guidance and resources related to this rank requirement.*

## **Eagle Requirement #6**

**Attach to [the Eagle] application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and 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 this service. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.**

- All requirements up to this point, including this one, must be met before the Scout's 18th birthday.
- Upon completion of this requirement, the Eagle Scout candidate is ready for his Board of Review.

## **Eagle Requirement #7**

**Complete your Board of Review.**

- Excerpt from *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures* from the Boy Scouts of America. - Page 28:

“Scouts who have completed all requirements for a rank prior to their 18th birthday should submit their application and be reviewed and recognized within three months after that date. **For Eagle Scout boards of review conducted between three and six months after the candidate's 18th birthday, a statement explaining the reason for the delay must be attached to the Eagle Scout Rank Application when it is submitted to the Eagle Scout Service.** If an Eagle Scout Board of Review will be held after the six months following the candidate's 18th birthday, the Eagle Scout must petition the National Boy Scout Committee for an extension of time to hold the board of review. The petition

must be processed through the local council, detailing the extenuating circumstances that prevented the board of review from being held within the six-month period following the candidate's 18th birthday, and be accompanied with a copy of the Eagle Scout Rank Application."

- *Please see the sections of the Yankee Clipper Council Eagle Scout Advancement Guidelines that relate specifically to the Eagle Scout Board of Review for detailed guidance and resources related to this rank requirement.*

## **Eagle Scout Time Extensions**

**If there is a Life Scout who needs a time extension:**

1. There must be extenuating circumstances totally beyond the Scout's control.
2. A letter must be written outlining the extenuating circumstances and submitted to the District Advancement Chairman.
3. Upon review by the District Advancement Committee, the committee should forward the letter to the Council Advancement Chairman of Yankee Clipper Council.
4. The Council Advancement Chairman will then forward the request to the National Office for an official decision on whether the request for an extension will be accepted.

## **Advancement for Special Needs Scouts**

- The BSA has incorporated provisions to allow Scouts with special needs to advance. For Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks, the Scout, his parents or the Troop may submit proposed alternative rank requirements to the Council Advancement Committee for approval. This option is not available for Star, Life or Eagle Scout ranks. However, certain merit badges are allowed as substitutes for specified merit badges that may be a problem for a Scout with special needs. The *Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges* provides guidance and must be completed and submitted to the District Advancement Chair along with appropriate documentation for approval by the Council Advancement Committee.
- Special needs Scouts may also register beyond the normal age range provided certain conditions are met. This should be done well in advance of the Scout's 18th birthday. Please speak with your District Advancement Chair as early as possible. Once a Scout registers as an adult, this option is no longer available.
- If assistance in these areas is needed, contact the District Advancement Chairman.

## Venture and Varsity Advancement

- A male Venturer or Varsity Scout who has achieved the First Class rank as a Boy Scout in a Troop or as a Venture or Varsity Scout in a team may continue working toward the Eagle Scout rank as a Venturer or Varsity Scout until his 18th birthday.
- Serve in a position of responsibility per requirements.
- The Scoutmaster conference will be conducted by the Advisor or Skipper.
- As the Venturer meets the requirements for the Star and Life Scout ranks, a Board of Review is conducted by the crew or ship committee. The Eagle Scout Board of Review is conducted by the District Advancement Committee of the regular Scouting District (not Venture District) that the Eagle Scout candidate resides within.
- The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project must be approved by the District Advancement Committee of the regular Scouting District (not Venture District) that the Eagle Scout candidate resides within.

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