



The Trail from Life to Eagle

BSA Troop 93
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www.troop93brentwoodtn.org

Congratulations!



- You've made it all the way to Life Scout and are one step away from Eagle. The Life-to-Eagle trail is not smooth or straight. This document will help guide you on the trail from Life to Eagle. The most important thing to remember is the trail must be complete by your 18th birthday.

Review Your Merit Badges



- You must have a minimum of 21 merit badges to become an Eagle Scout. Of the 21, 12 are required and you can choose 9 electives from the more than 100 other approved merit badges.

Eagle Required Merit Badges

- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Environmental Science
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Lifesaving OR Emergency Preparedness
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Cycling OR Hiking





Leadership Position



- You are required to serve a minimum of 6 months in a leadership position of responsibility while a Life Scout.
- The following are **some** of the leadership positions that will meet this requirement:
 - Senior Patrol Leader
 - Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
 - Patrol Leader
 - Quartermaster
 - Den Chief
 - Chaplin Aid
 - Troop Historian
 - Troop Guide
 - Scribe

This must be ACTIVE service!



- If you take a leadership position but never do anything and do not participate in meetings and outings, you will not receive leadership credit.

Counting time in Leadership Position



- If you are in a leadership position when you become a Life Scout, that leadership position counts toward Eagle beginning the day after your Life Board of Review.
- **EXAMPLE:** If you are elected Patrol Leader Nov. 1 and become a Life Scout Feb. 1, you start earning leadership credit for Eagle Feb. 1 and would need to serve until Aug. 1 to complete 6 months.
- The 6 months does not have to be in one position nor does it have to be served consecutively as long as it totals 6 months. You can't serve in two positions at the same time for 3 months and claim 6 months credit.

The Eagle Project



- The primary goal of your Eagle Project is to demonstrate your leadership abilities through the planning, organizing and execution required for the completion of the project.
- Your project must benefit community, school, religious or other charitable organization.
- The service must be significant and not considered normal or routine.
- You must involve at least two others and actively direct their participation. Ideally, the project will provide work opportunities for most if not all boys in the troop.

Successful Projects



- Food drives
- Book drives
- Building benches for parks and churches
- Designing and planting a garden for a retirement home
- Building a foot bridge for a nature trail and agricultural center
- Restoration and repair of a historical cemetery

The Eagle Project Workbook



- The Scoutmaster or Life to Eagle coordinator will give you a copy of the Eagle Project workbook. You may also pick one up from the Scout office or download from the council website or Troop 93 website:

www.troop93brentwoodtn.org.

Getting Your Project Approved



- Complete the first 3 pages of your workbook and have it signed by your sponsor representative.
- Meet with you Scoutmaster and have him sign the workbook.
- After the Scoutmaster approves and signs, have the Troop Committee Chair sign. If any one of these 3 people don't approve the project as written, don't sweat. Make the changes suggested and resubmit for approval. The signatures must be obtained in the order stated above.
- Your project is now ready for approval by the **District Advancement Chair**. You or another troop representative will take your project workbook to the Eagle Registrar at the Middle Tennessee Council office. She will arrange for it to be reviewed by the District Advancement Chair. You will be contacted by the District Advancement Chair when your project has been reviewed. If not approved, you will be told what changes to make before resubmitting the project. Once approved, make sure you have a copy of the signature page and make an extra copy. **Do not begin work until the approval process is final.**

Complete Your Project



- Keep track of everything—time, materials, volunteers and costs. Make note of any changes to your original plan and why they were required.
- **Coordinate all of your activities with your Scoutmaster and Sponsor Representative.** Don't schedule work days during a troop outing or other activity that would limit your volunteers.

Document Your Project



- Take pictures during and after project completion.
- The Sponsor Representative must sign your Project Workbook indicating the project was completed properly and as expected.
- Keep a log of every one who worked on your project and how much time they spent. You must then turn in a copy of this log so your fellow Scouts will receive credit for their service hours.
- Complete pages 4 & 5 of the project workbook. Attach your log and “after” pictures.
- Sign and date your workbook. Have your Scoutmaster review and sign that the project is complete.

Letters of Reference



- You are required to have 5 or more letters of reference. A letter should be included from your parents, church leader, school, employer (if you have one) and at least two others who know you well.
- The “others” can be neighbors, coaches, adult Scouters or family friends.
- If you do not belong to a church or religious organization, a parent can write this letter, but it must be separate and different from the “parent letter.” It should stress how you have demonstrated reverence in your daily life.
- To be sure you receive at least the minimum number of letters, it is a good idea to identify more than one individual for each required letter.
- Give your references a copy of the reference letter plus a stamped envelope addressed to the **Scoutmaster or Life-to-Eagle coordinator**.
- **You should not be involved in the delivery of your letters back to the troop. You will not see your letters until after your Eagle Board of Review.**
- The letters should be dated within 12 months of your Board of Review.

Your Life Purpose Statement



- You should write a 1-3 page document describing what you have done and where you are headed. Start with when and why you joined Scouting. Describe what you've learned as a Scout and how that has affected who you are.
- List your activities and major awards both in and out of BSA. What are your plans for the future? What do you plan to do in BSA once you reach Eagle? What do you want to do after high school and what careers interest you?
- You will need your Life Purpose Statement for your Scoutmaster Conference. Bring at least 4 copies for your Board of Review members.

The Eagle Application



- The Eagle Application is the most important document in your entire packet. It is the only item sent to the National Office. It must be neat and correct or your application will be rejected.
- The form must be original or printed in color from a PDF copy on the Troop 93 website. The information should be typed or neatly written in black ink. The Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair can provide an advancement report to help complete the application.
- Where there are choices in the merit badge section, such as Lifesaving or Emergency Preparedness, place a single line through the one you didn't earn. **If you earned both, use the one earned first for the requirement and the second one as one of your electives.**
- **List elective merit badges in the order earned for each rank. If you list them out of order, the date of the badge could be later than the date of advancement for that rank and your application will be rejected.**
- For leadership positions, list only those you have held since becoming a Life Scout. If the position spans your Life Board of Review date, the start date for that position is the date of your Life BOR.

Scoutmaster Conference



- Call the Scoutmaster to arrange to meet with him to discuss your Eagle Scout rank. Wear your full class A uniform. Be on time! Bring your Eagle Project Workbook, Eagle application and Life Purpose Statement. The Scoutmaster will review your project and paperwork. Upon successful completion of the Scoutmaster Conference, he will sign the Eagle application form as Unit Leader.
- Upon successful completion of the Scoutmaster Conference, meet with the Troop Committee Chair to discuss your project and review your application. The Committee Chair will review your project and paperwork and sign the Eagle application form as Unit Committee Chair.

The Eagle Board of Review



- Contact the Life-to-Eagle coordinator to schedule your Board of Review **after the council's Eagle Registrar has approved your application.** Allow 3-4 weeks lead time.
- The Eagle Board of Review consists of a District Representative and 2-4 others. Your Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and relatives are prohibited from serving on the Eagle BOR. The board members do not have to be registered Scouters, but should have a good knowledge of the goals and ideals of Scouting.
- Upon successful completion of the BOR, the Board Chair and District Representative will sign your application. If you do not pass the BOR, you will be informed as to the reason and what steps you need to take before your application can be re-submitted.

After Your Board of Review



- The Life-to-Eagle coordinator or designee will submit the Eagle application to the Middle Tennessee Council office. The application is then forwarded to the National BSA office.
- Your application should be returned from National in 6-8 weeks. The MTC office will compile an Eagle award packet that will be picked up by the Life-to-Eagle coordinator or the Scoutmaster.
- **Do not begin planning your Eagle Court of Honor until the packet is picked up.**

Final Thoughts



- The steps to complete and reach Eagle may seem daunting at first. If you plan ahead, go at a steady pace and give yourself time, the tasks become much easier. The minimum amount of time from Life to Eagle is 6 months. The average in Troop 93 and most troops is 2-3 years.
- Some requirements can be worked on simultaneously or even completed out of order. You do not have to wait until you have earned every merit badge or completed every other requirement to begin thinking about your Eagle Project. **You may complete your Eagle Project any time you are a Life Scout even if you still need merit badges or time in a leadership position.**
- The completion of Eagle requirements; the merit badges, the paperwork, the meetings and the presentations are your responsibility. The Troop, adult leaders and your parents are here to help, but can't do it for you. The Eagle rank is yours to earn or let pass by.