



Life to Eagle

A Roadmap

Prepared for Scouts in the Meridian District of Mount Diablo Silverado Council

<http://bsameridian.com/advancement>

This presentation is a supplement to the Eagle Orientation class. Use it as a reference – along with your notes from the Orientation class – as you work your way through the steps to achieving Eagle Rank.

The Orientation class is offered on the first Thursday of each month. You should make plans to attend this class because it goes into more detail than can be covered here, and allows for questions and clarifications. Also, it's a chance to let parents and advisors understand this grand adventure you are about to begin – and which will benefit from their support and encouragement! So, bring them along.

We no longer hand out a 'Packet' – BSA requires Scouts to use the Service Project Workbook.

You will find valuable information including key contacts and instructions for requesting Boards of Review at the Meridian District website:

<http://bsameridian.com/advancement>

And Council for the Registrar and other contact information:

<http://www.mdscbsa.org/>

And the BSA website is a vital source of official information and guidance:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/default.aspx>

And now – **READ ON!**

FIRST STEPS

- Attend an Eagle Scout Orientation session. These are held on the first Thursday of each month and last about an hour. We strongly recommend having either a parent or your advisor or both with you.
- Select an Eagle Advisor
This is an adult in your Troop who is registered with BSA, has a current YPT (Youth Protection Training) certificate, and is knowledgeable about the roles and responsibilities of an Advisor.
- Download the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook which you can find at:
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/EagleWorkbookProcedures.aspx>
Follow the instructions for downloading and opening in Adobe Reader.
- Read the instructions in the Workbook and review them with your parents and advisor.

Next . . .

- Contact Council and get a copy of your advancement records:
jennifer.nielsen@scouting.org (Registrar) **OR** julie.graham@scouting.org (Program Assistant)
Review the records for correctness and work with the Registrar or Program Assistant to remedy any inaccuracies. You will repeat this process one more time when you are ready to complete your Eagle Scout Rank Application form ahead of requesting a rank advancement Board of Review.
- Make sure you are aware of all the steps you need to complete by reading the Guide to Advancement for Eagle Scout Rank which you will find here:
<http://www.scouting.org/Home/GuideToAdvancement/EagleScoutRank.aspx>
- Download a copy of the Eagle Scout Rank Application. Review it with your parents and advisor so all of you know the requirements you will have to meet. Leave the form blank for the time being.
http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_WB_fillable.pdf

And now . .

- Time to select a project . . .

Your Troop often has ideas and contacts for Service Projects so check with your Advisor.

However, if you're looking for ideas, the following website has a whole bunch of them:

<http://www.scoutorama.com/project/>

And, this is another great site for project ideas:

<http://www.myprojectfinder.com/>

- And, yet another great site for project ideas:

<http://eagleprojects.boyslife.org/>

- Now that you have selected your project, check with your Scoutmaster and Advisor to make sure they agree on its appropriateness. If they do . . . It's time to talk with the Beneficiary Organization.

Moving right along . . .

- Set up a meeting with the beneficiary organization and:

Discuss the project and its scope and limitations

Define the beneficiaries criteria for reaching a successful completion

Identify any special needs or circumstances

Establish a time frame for start and conclusion

Review the 'Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project' document with the beneficiary:

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/510-025.pdf>

Now the planning starts

- Open up the Service Project Workbook that you previously downloaded and:

Read the instructions for completing the proposal.

Complete the Proposal Sections* paying particular attention to making sure you address the 'Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Scout Service Project'.

Review the proposal with your Advisor, Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and the Beneficiary. If all agree to your proposal, request signatures on Proposal Page E.

- This is a proposal. A detailed plan is not appropriate at this time – you will prepare that plan only after a Board of Review approves your proposal.

* On the Contact Information page, you do not need to complete the 'Council or District Project Approval Representative' section

Approval time

- It's time to request a District Board of Review to present your proposal.

Go to the District website and follow this link to request a Proposal Board of Review:

<http://www.bsameridian.com/advancement>

- The link uses a questionnaire format to collect key information. After you Submit the form the administrator for review boards and your adviser will receive email notifications.
- You will get an acknowledgment letting you know you have been added to the list for your requested date. You will receive a follow up email several days before the scheduled Board advising you of the time slot you have been assigned.

Preparing for the review

- The review board is not an exhaustive inquisition – really! Its purpose is to make sure your proposal meets the Famous 5 – the five tests of an acceptable service project, that is.
- You will be invited to give a short, verbal presentation describing your project, its value to the beneficiary, and a ‘big picture’ outline of how you plan to go about achieving a successful completion.
- Next, the reviewers will read through your proposal document which you will give them after your verbal presentation. Bring three copies along with one for yourself.
- You can expect questions from the Board who may also provide some written comments about things that you should plan to include in your plan and project write-up.

Approval

- All being well, the review board will approve the project and sign your workbook.
- You now have all the required approvals to move on to the next phase of your project.
- **WARNING**

You may not begin any work on the project until you have this District approval signature.

Details, details . . .

- Work with your Advisor and any other Troop resources that might be helpful to produce a final plan – the Service Project Workbook has all the sections that you need to work on.
- You should develop an appropriate level of planning detail consistent with achieving the stated objective of your proposal. You are not designing the world's tallest building or trying to launch someone into outer space! Keep the plan reasonable and realistic.
- Review your final plan with your Advisor, Scoutmaster, and Beneficiary. If all are in agreement, go ahead and complete the project.
- On completion, you need to have the Beneficiary agree that you have completed the project satisfactorily.

Nearly there . . .

Just a few more steps:

Complete the last section of the Workbook - The Eagle Scout Service Project Report – and have it signed by the Beneficiary and your Scoutmaster.

Finish any remaining, required Merit Badges.

Request your Advancement Records from the Council Registrar or Program Assistant, and make sure everything is correct and up-to-date.

Write your ‘Ambitions and Life Purpose’ report.

Letters of recommendation – a Scout’s responsibility is limited to providing the names and addresses of references in Requirement 2 of the rank application*.

* You may request letters of recommendation to be provided in a sealed envelope but you are not responsible for any follow up related to the provision or delivery of these references.

Wrap up . . .

- Time to return to the Eagle Rank Application form. Complete all the sections, and gather all of the signatures you need prior to requesting a rank advancement Board of Review.
- Remember, as part of the above process, you need to conference with your Scoutmaster and Committee Chair. You also must have Council's signature verifying your application is accurate.
- Use the 'Eagle Advancement Checklist' to make sure your application is complete. Request a rank advancement Board of Review: <http://bsameridian.com/advancement>
- Be prepared to deliver your Master (Original)* binder + two copies to the review board administrator.

* Place the following at the front of the original: Rank Application & Rank Advancement forms, the signature page from your proposal, the project completion sign off page, your statement of Ambitions & Life Purpose, and the Project Record form.

Board of Review

- For your rank advancement Board of Review, you are expected to wear your Class A uniform and be accompanied by your Advisor or another member of your Troop who is registered with BSA, who knows you, and who knows your project.
- The reviewers are going to ask a wide ranging collection of questions about your Scouting experience, your ongoing commitment to Scouting, your life ambitions, and even, sometimes, about your project!
- They are evaluating your character to establish to their satisfaction that you meet the criteria and standards of someone who will reflect well all those notions associated with an Eagle Scout.
- A Board of Review is not an interrogation. It's a civilized conversation, and it's your opportunity to talk about your accomplishments, and your hopes and plans for the future.

Ba-da-bing Ba-da-boom



Congratulations!