



Life to Eagle: A Guide for Life Scouts



Congratulations on achieving the rank of Life Scout!

Although you've just earned this new rank, it's time to start thinking about taking the final steps on your "Trail to Eagle." No matter how many Merit Badges you have earned or how old you are now, we recommend that you begin thinking about your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

Because of the demands of family life, school, extra-curricular activities, possibly a job – and, of course, your Troop activities – a Life Scout is encouraged to start working on his Leadership Service Project as soon as possible.

Here's the first reason why: The process of getting your Leadership Service Project approved can take several months. Here are the steps involved:

- Check out possible projects.
- Discuss them with the Troop's Eagle Scout Coordinator.
- Select a project.
- Write up your project proposal.
- Get a letter of approval from the organization that will benefit from it.
- Review your project with the Scoutmaster and get his approval.
- Review your project with the Troop Committee and get its approval.
- Submit the proposal to the Knox Trail Council Tri-River District's Advancement Committee and get its approval.

Here's the second reason why: Many Leadership Service Projects involve outdoor work that cannot be done in certain months due to weather conditions. Summer vacation months also may limit the availability of other Scouts to assist in your project.

Here's the third reason why: After you complete your Leadership Service Project, you need to do the following:

- Obtain a "letter of completion" from the organization that benefitted from your project.
- "Write up" (fully document) your completed project.

Because of these three reasons, it can take as much as a year – or even longer – from the time you begin checking out possible projects until the time you begin to actually start working on it and complete it.

The age limit of 18 years old to complete your Eagle Scout requirements may seem a long way off to you now. In reality, the time will go by very fast, and it's better to follow the Scout motto of "Be Prepared."

And, don't worry, the Troop has designated an Eagle Scout Coordinator to help advise you at all steps of the trail from Life to Eagle.

In addition, the Knox Trail Council Tri-River District's Advancement Committee holds seminars about the "Life to Eagle" process and paperwork at least once each calendar year. We encourage you and your parents to attend one of these seminars to hear first-hand how to complete your "Trail to Eagle."

The next page gives a general list what has to happen.

What's required to go from Life Scout to Eagle Scout?

(See the "Eagle Scout Rank Requirements" section in your *Boy Scout Handbook*.)

1. Meet with the Troop's Eagle Scout Coordinator to discuss making the step from Life Scout to Eagle Scout.
2. Plan and complete your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.
3. While you're working on your Leadership Service Project, complete the other requirements for Eagle Scout:
 - a. Be active in Troop 44 and your Patrol for at least 6 months after earning the rank of Life Scout.
 - b. Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and the Scout Law in your everyday life.
 - c. Earn at least 21 Merit Badges (12 from the "Eagle-required" list and 9 others – and, remember, you already have at least 7 Eagle-required and 4 others).
 - d. Serve actively for a period of 6 months in a certain position of responsibility (listed in the "Eagle Scout Rank Requirements" section in your *Boy Scout Handbook*).
 - e. Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.
4. Work with the Troop's Eagle Scout Coordinator and Advancement Chair to complete all parts of your "Eagle Scout Application."
5. Complete your Eagle Scout Board of Review.