

# How to Become an Eagle Scout

Two Parts: ■ Working up the Ranks ■ Fulfilling Eagle Scout Requirements

Eagle Scout is the highest rank that can be attained in the Boy Scouts of America. To achieve this status, you must be an active member of the Boy Scouts who has advanced through all of the previous ranks. Then you have to accomplish the tasks required of an Eagle Scout, including a large service project. With careful planning and diligence you can accomplish a most sought after award while having fun.

## Part 1

### Working up the Ranks

**1 Join a Scout troop.** Join a troop that you like and that fits with your personality. It's a good idea to choose a local troop.

- Boys can join Cub Scouts as early as the first grade. Once a boy is older than 10, or has completed the fifth grade, he can join Boy Scouts. You can join Venturing for ages 14 through 20.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Eagle Scout requirements must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday, so it's best to join the Scouts young, when you'll have plenty of time to complete all the requirements.<sup>[2]</sup>

**2 Familiarize yourself with the *Scout Handbook*.** The *Scout Handbook* is the official handbook of the Scouts derived from Robert Baden-Powell's original *Scouting for Boys*. It contains all the requirements to earn your ranks.<sup>[3]</sup>

- The handbook has great tips on camping.
- Get Scoutbook and go digital! It's an easy web application to track progress that's fun for Scouts and easy for unit leaders to track.<sup>[4]</sup>

**3 Earn the ranks that come before Eagle Scout.** To become eligible for the rank of Eagle Scout, you must first earn Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life Ranks. These ranks require accomplishments in camping, cooking, navigation, nature, aquatics, first aid, fitness, leadership, safety, citizenship, and Scout spirit.<sup>[5]</sup>

- These ranks take time to earn and cannot be done in a rush. Make sure you join Scouts with enough time to accomplish these ranks.
- Part of advancing in the ranks is accomplished by earning merit badges, which signify a Scout's knowledge and skills in a particular area. By the time a Scout completes Life Rank, they'll have 11 merit badges that they've earned.

**4 Complete merit badges, keeping in mind requirements for Eagle Scout.** As you move up the ranks completing your merit badges, you should think about the merit badges you'll have to complete for the Eagle Scout rank. While you only have to get an additional 10 merit badges for Eagle Rank, 13 badges of the cumulative 21 badges must be in certain areas. So you should keep those in mind as you work towards this goal.

- It's best to try to get the more difficult merit badges done before moving on to your Eagle Scout requirements, since you'll want to devote your time to your Eagle Scout service project.

**5 Be an active Life Scout for at least six months.** To become eligible for the Eagle Scout rank, you must first have been an active Scout at the Life Rank for at least six months.<sup>[6]</sup>

- Make sure you've got these six months to spare before your 18th birthday!

Part  
2

## Fulfilling Eagle Scout Requirements

**1 Get the required 10 additional merit badges.** To achieve Eagle Scout Rank, you must complete an additional 10 merit badges, bringing your cumulative number of badges up to 21. 13 of these total 21 badges must be from specific categories.<sup>[7]</sup>

- The 13 required merit badges must include the following: First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science or Sustainability, Personal Management, Swimming or Hiking or Cycling, Camping, and Family Life.<sup>[8]</sup>

**2 Serve your troop for six months as a leader.** In order to meet the Eagle Scout requirements, you'll need to serve your troop in a leadership capacity for six months. You can serve your own troop, the Varsity Scout team, the Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship, or serve as a Lone Scout.<sup>[9]</sup>

- For example, you can serve your troop by acting as a patrol leader, troop guide, chaplain aid, or junior assistant Scoutmaster.
- You could be captain or squad leader for your Varsity Scout team.
- Be a boatswain, storekeeper, or quartermaster for Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship.
- A Lone Scout serves in a leadership capacity outside of the Scouts in a school, religious, or community setting.

**3 Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.** The aspiring Eagle Scout must participate in a Scoutmaster conference, which is a conference between the Scoutmaster and the Scout. Topics of discussion include your ambitions, future goals, and how you are doing in the troop.<sup>[10]</sup>

- This is a useful time to talk out the final hurdles the Scout will undergo to get their Eagle Scout Rank—the Eagle Scout service project and the board of review.

**4 Think about your service project.** To become an Eagle Scout you'll need to plan and execute a service project that benefits a religious institution, school, or your community.

- The project must be approved by your unit leader and the institution it's benefitting.<sup>[11]</sup>
- If you're stumped on project ideas, consult community, Scout, or religious leaders to see what projects they may need help with.
- Most Eagle Scout service projects are construction based. For example, many Scouts build bridges, decks, or playgrounds for an institution in need. Other more unique project ideas include hosting a free football camp for low income kids or collecting shoes to send to earthquake victims.<sup>[12]</sup>

**5 Submit the proposal form for your project.** You need to submit your project proposal for your Eagle Scout service project; this is the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*. The proposal includes the scope of your project and its timeline. The project is evaluated based on the following: feasibility, safety issues, the steps of the plan for execution, and whether the project is one that will give the Scout a positive experience.

**6 Complete the service project.** After your project is approved, you will complete your Eagle Scout service project by fundraising and soliciting volunteers along the way to help you.

- To successfully complete your project, rely on the schedule you created for your project approval.
- Take advantage of the internet and crowdfund to raise money for your project.<sup>[13]</sup>
- One of the goals of the Eagle Scout service project is to demonstrate your leadership, so refrain from doing the entire project yourself. Enlist and delegate tasks to volunteers to demonstrate your leadership abilities. Recruit volunteers from school, church, or your neighborhood.<sup>[14]</sup>

**7 Prepare for the board of review.** The final step in becoming an Eagle Scout is to present and submit all your materials to the board of review. This includes your Eagle Scout Application, a statement of your ambitions and life purpose, a list of all positions dealing with leadership, and a statement of any honors or awards received.<sup>[15]</sup>

- Part of the Eagle Scout Application includes six references who can speak to the Scout's character. These can include parents, relatives, Scout leaders, or other Scouts and friends. However, the references must be 21 or older.<sup>[16]</sup>
- The board of review must happen before the 18th birthday of the Scout. It's only with special permission that the review can happen within 3 months of the Scout's 18th birthday.

**8 Go to your Eagle Scout ceremony.** After successful completion of all the requirements for Eagle Scout Rank, go to the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony, where you can proudly accept that handshake and smile from your Scoutmaster as he reads out your name aloud.

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## Community Q&A

### How many merit badges does an Eagle Scout have to obtain?



wikiHow Contributor

There are a total of over 100 merit badges in scouting. 21 merit badges is the requirement to receive the rank of Eagle, 13 of them being Eagle-required merit badges.

Not Helpful 0 Helpful 10

### Is it necessary to maintain passing grades in high school to become an eagle scout or to be a camp counselor?



wikiHow Contributor

Part of being a successful Eagle Scout is being a leader in your school environment. Eagle Scouts typically graduate high school, and this is required for awards in the National Eagle Scout Association.

Not Helpful 0 Helpful 4

### Can any number of adults do most of the work if the scout has the idea?



wikiHow Contributor

They can help, but the scout should be running the overall project. It is okay if the adults do the huge parts, like if a log needs to be chopped in half then they should probably handle the saw.

Not Helpful 0 Helpful 3

### How intensive does an Eagle Scout project have to be?



wikiHow Contributor

It has to be pretty intensive, but not massive. I would say it usually takes a month or so to complete. It can be anything from cleaning up a park or cemetery to putting a flag pole in.

Not Helpful 3 Helpful 9

### Is camping required to be considered an active scout for someone working on Star? And is there documentation somewhere about that?



wikiHow Contributor

If you are talking about the merit badge, it is required for Eagle Scouts. Camping in general is not required though, as long as you consistently or at least semi-consistently, show up to meetings and do the occasional outing, you should be just fine.

Not Helpful 5 Helpful 12

### What is the minimum age for becoming an Eagle Scout?



wikiHow Contributor

There is no minimum age. However, there are time-in-rank requirements: Four months for Star, six months for Life, and six months for Eagle. There is also a 30-day fitness requirement for Tenderfoot. A scout who worked at a frenzied pace could theoretically earn his Eagle rank 17 months after joining. So, it is possible to have an 11 year old Eagle, if he joins at 10 with his Arrow of Light and completes his Eagle board of review before his 12th birthday. It's possible for even younger boys to earn the Eagle rank, but only if they skipped grades in elementary school and joined younger than 10 by having completed the fifth grade.

Not Helpful 8 Helpful 16

### Is there a maximum age for becoming an Eagle Scout?



wikiHow Contributor

You must become an Eagle Scout before your 18th birthday.

Not Helpful 1 Helpful 4

### How do I earn merit badges quickly?



wikiHow Contributor

Set a schedule with your scoutmaster and set goals and a timeline to achieve badges quickly.

Not Helpful 4 Helpful 6

### Is an Eagle Scout supposed to ask others for ideas on their project?



wikiHow Contributor

There is no problem asking for help. After all, the people you will probably be asking will help you complete your project. Teamwork means learning to ask others for help and being helpful in turn.

Not Helpful 9 Helpful 10

### What's the total number of merit badges needed for Eagle Scout?



wikiHow  
Contributor

You need 10 for the Eagle Scout Rank, but 21 cumulatively.

Not Helpful

2

Helpful

3

## Tips

- Besides being personally rewarding, being an Eagle Scout also looks good on resumes and college applications. Additionally, there are many scholarships available for Eagle Scouts.

## Sources and Citations

1. <http://www.scouting.org/FAQ/Parent.aspx>
2. <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/eligibility.aspx>
3. [https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Boy\\_Scout\\_Handbook](https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Boy_Scout_Handbook)

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