Earning Eagle Rank

Troop Leadership Focus

University of Scouting 2016

1

Presenters

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Council Youth Development Committee

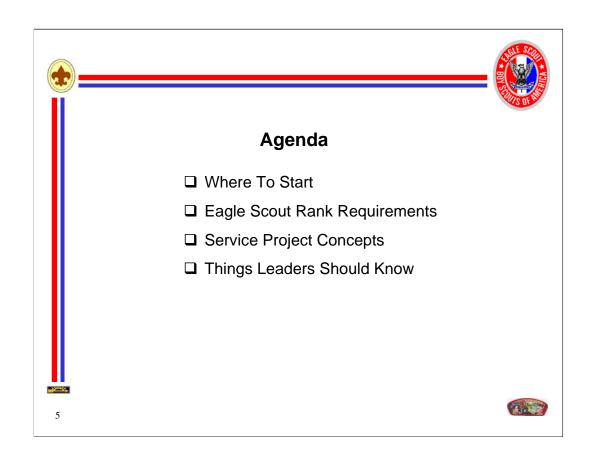|	
Council Committee Chair	Amy Dick
Delaware River	Jim Steinberg – Charlie Ruiz John Gain (north) Bill Roberts (south)
Dutchess	Peter Dowley – Jim Duffy
Heritage	Greg Crisci - Sherri Raco
Rockland	Eric Sharrin – E. Sharrin (a)
Staff Advisor	(a) Dave Horton

Structure of the BSA,
And the Responsibilities of each level

❑ National Council

- Defines the Scouting Program

- Publishes Handbooks & Forms

❑ The approx. 273 Councils in the U.S.

- Lead the implementation of National Policies

- Define Council-wide Goals & Procedures

- Support units through a District Structure

❑ The Districts in the Council

- Define Local Procedures

❑ The Units

- Carry out BSA Programs (Cubs, Scouts, etc.)

4

Agenda

❑ Where To Start

❑ Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

❑ Service Project Concepts

❑ Things Leaders Should Know

Where to Start

Leader's Reference Materials

- ❑ *Guide To Advancement 2015* (GTA2015) (BSA #33088)
    - ▪ The main source of Advancement information
- ❑ HVC YDC "Eagle Scout Process" on HVC Advancement website
- ❑ *Guide to Safe Scouting* (BSA #34416)
- ❑ Advancement News
    - ▪ Subscribe; free e-newsletter; 6 issues per year
- ❑ Blog: Bryan on Scouting
    - ▪ Scouting magazine online: http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/
- ❑ *Troop Committee Guidebook* (BSA #34505)
- ❑ *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Oct 2015* "printing"
    - ▪ Access using a link, not by BSA Pub number
    - ▪ Interactive .pdf
- ❑ *Eagle Scout Rank Application 2016* "printing"(BSA #512-728)
    - ▪ Interactive .pdf

The Advancement ideas and methods of Boy Scouting are defined and presented in National BSA pub # 33088

"Guide to Advancement 2015"

Troop Leadership Role

Educating The Life Scout

❑ Work with the Scout to make sure he understands what he has been given:

– Review the content of the forms, with the Scout and his parents before he starts.

– Review the Eagle Scout requirements.

– Lay out Project timeline expectations:
Proposal to Report may take 6 months or more.

– Review the requirements of the service project's phases, (proposal, planning, funding and reporting), with the Scout before he starts each of these phases.

– Make sure he understands the importance of the project in obtaining the rank of Eagle.

The Guide to Advancement 2015 (the Guide)

an Overview:

- ❑ Very detailed Table of Contents

- ❑ Covers all programs, Cubbing, Boy Scouts, Venturing, etc.

- ❑ Has general information and program specific information

- ❑ Starts by giving key definitions and guidelines

- ❑ Then discusses, in multiple sections, the mechanics of Advancement

- ❑ Has sections oriented to complex situations (e.g.: Eagle; Special Needs; appeals)

❑ Council, District, Unit Advancement – all have roles

❑ Unit Advancement
- Unit Goal Setting
- Unit Progress Evaluation
- Obvious basics:
  - Records keeping
  - Advancement reporting – using <u>Internet Advancement</u>
  - Court of Honor preparations and planning

❑ Troop leadership guides Scouts to produce program that strives to reach advancement goals, that is, to have an effective "Boy Run Troop"

11

Leading Scouts to Eagle Rank

Set the expectation that your Scouts
CAN, SHOULD, WILL
earn Eagle Scout Rank

– Majority who make First Class **CAN**

– Most who make Star **SHOULD**

– Almost all who make Life **WILL**

Leading Scouts to Eagle Rank

First Class
– Scouting needs to encourage him onward and let him know you think he can succeed in Scouting
– Scouting needs to reach out to those that don't show up for a while

Star
– Scouting needs to help him understand the trail to Eagle
– Scouting needs to help him stay focused
– Scout can be given more confidence if trained in Leadership

Life
– Scouting needs to help him understand the requirements of Eagle
– Scouting needs to teach him about his role as a "Senior Scout"
– Troop's Program has to offer "Senior Scout" experiences and adventure.

13

Eagle Scout Rank Requirements

Eagle Scout Requirements (simplified)

1. Be active as Life Scout *   *6 months while Life* *
2. Prove you live by Oath and Law *   *Ltrs of Recommendation*
3. Earn total of 21 Merit Badges *   *Required MB and Others*
4. Serve actively in Leadership Position *   *6 months while Life* *
5. Lead Eagle Scout Service Project *   *Plan, Develop, etc.*
6. Take part in Unit Leader (SM) Conference *
   and then successfully complete
   an Eagle Scout Board of Review **   *ESRA + 2 documents*

** * Must be completed before 18th birthday**
** ** Must be completed within 3 months after 18th Birthday**

15

Eagle Scout Requirements

1. Be active as Life Scout
6 month minimum

- Does not have to be consecutive, but must total to 6 months.
- Troop leadership needs to be aware that "life" can get in the way and should take this into consideration.

  (See GTA2015 section 4.2.3.1.)

- Percentage of attendance is not a proper measure. It can be a useful tool to alert you and the Scout that ongoing dialog is needed. Make sure he knows he needs to make his Troop time count for something, and that you have a clear picture of the obstacles and alternative interests in his "life".
- Formal Disenrollment must be followed to separate the totally uninterested Scout from your Troop.
- Have an end date on application, do not use "current."

16

Eagle Scout Requirements

2. Prove you live by Oath and Law

- On application, Scout will need to supply full contact information for up to 6 references.

- Request for reference is a Unit responsibility. Advise Scout to seek request approval from person before submitting name. If he/she agrees, get full contact info.

- Only reference not required is that of employer (Scout may not have or have had a job.)

- If there is no organized religious reference, then parent must submit a second reference letter attesting to the Scout's moral upbringing.

- Reference letters are opened and read only by the Eagle Board members. No one else is to read the letters.

Eagle Scout Requirements

3. Earn total of 21 Merit Badges
required and optional

- Currently 13 MB chosen from required list of MB, plus 8 optional (personal choice) MB.

- Unless stated in BSA publications, Scouts may continue working on badges under old requirements.

- Merit Badge Counselors have to be registered.

18

Eagle Scout Requirements

4. Serve actively in leadership position
for total of 6 months

- Need not be only one position.

- Eagle Scout Rank Application lists available positions
  depending on Scouting program (unit type).

- When Scout has been in position for 6 months,
  he has met the requirement.

- It is up to Unit to counsel Scout:
  If he is having difficulty, or not meeting reasonable
  expectations, he may have to be removed or put in a
  new position.

19

Eagle Scout Requirements

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 must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.)

   A project proposal must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your unit leader and unit committee, and the council or district before you start.

   The Scout must use the current version of the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook in meeting this requirement. The current front cover has the date "October 2015" on it.

   More about the project in later slides

Eagle Scout Requirements

6. Take part in a Scoutmaster Conference

- It is not a retest of requirements, but a discussion of life and scouting goals.

- It is not a pass-fail situation.

- Scout cannot be denied a Board of Review because of refusal by his leader(s) to sign Eagle Scout Rank Application.

- Denial situations have special rules –
    "Board of Review under Disputed Circumstances"
    must be conducted. See GTA 8.0.3.2

    This situation is handled by your District.

Eagle Scout Requirements

Take part in an Eagle Board of Review

- **B**asic documents needed by the EBOR
    - Eagle Scout Rank Application
    - Statement of life goals
    - List of accomplishments, activities, positions and awards (both in and outside of scouting.)

Implied:

- Rank Application will have been reviewed and verified by Council to match Scout's BSA official record.

- Correction is a Troop responsibility using the Internet Advancement reporting system.

Eagle Scout Requirements

Eagle Board of Review, continued

Implied, continued:

• Other documents must also be present:

- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Completed and signed Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.**
  - If Plan section not used, alternative proof of planning and development must be provided.
  - If applicable, approved Fundraising Application
  - If applicable, approved Tour and Activity Plan
  - Supporting Materials (photos, maps, drawings)
- **Advancement Form**

Service Project Concepts

Troop Leadership Role

Educating The Life Scout
about Service Project

❑ **"Rules of the Game"**

– The *Service Project Workbook* itself has some rules about
   projects.

– The Scout needs to demonstrate his leadership skills.

– The project's impact on the community's needs is a key factor.

– Project proposals are not single step events –
   proposal creation is an evolutionary multi-step process.

  Scout's tend to think that it's one-pass-and-done.

  Write something and get it signed and move on.

  Not True – set their expectations early!

Troop Leadership Role

Working With The Life Scout

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook

❑ Composed of six distinct parts –

- Introduction & Guidance

- Proposal

- Project Plan

- Fundraising Application

- Project Report

- Guide for Project Beneficiaries:

    Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project

Troop Leadership Role

Working With The Life Scout

❑ **Project Proposal**
- Reviewed with and approved by
  - Representative of the Benefiting Organization
  - Unit Leader (e.g. Scoutmaster)
  - Unit Committee (Chair)
  - District Eagle Advancement Coordinator/Committee

Plan can only go forward after the Proposal has been approved.

Troop Leadership Role

Working With The Life Scout

❑ **The District's Eagle Advancement Committee or Coordinator reviews the Proposal to compare it to other District Eagle projects**

- Complete enough to show that it can work?
- Is it going to show the needed leadership?
- What other approvals may be needed?

❑ **Major changes to the project require re-approval from the Troop Committee and the District Adv. Cmte./Coord.**

Troop Leadership Role

Working With The Life Scout

❑ **Project Plan**

- Make sure the Scout understands that developing the **Plan** will take significant time.
- Offer him the benefit of your Troop's leaders experience with leading projects in their own adult lives.
- <u>**Emphasize**</u> usefulness of a **Project Coach**

❑ **Fundraising Application**

- – Reviewed with and approved (by signatures of) from
  - Representative of the Benefiting Organization

- Unit Leader (e.g. Scoutmaster)
  - Council Advancement Chair or designee

Troop Leadership Role

Working With The Life Scout

❑ **Project Report**

- Scout has places to describe how project went.

- Summary of time is included, no detail necessary but scout should track it separately for unit use.

- Signatures indicate satisfactory completion of project and that it meets requirement 5.

- *Guide to Advancement 2015* (Sect 8.0.3.2) describes process if signatures are withheld.

Troop Leadership Role

Other Considerations

❑ At least one registered Unit leader should participate in the project, so there is firsthand unit leadership experience of Scout's abilities and leadership skills.

❑ Review the finished project itself - the actual work result. Is it described well in his Report?
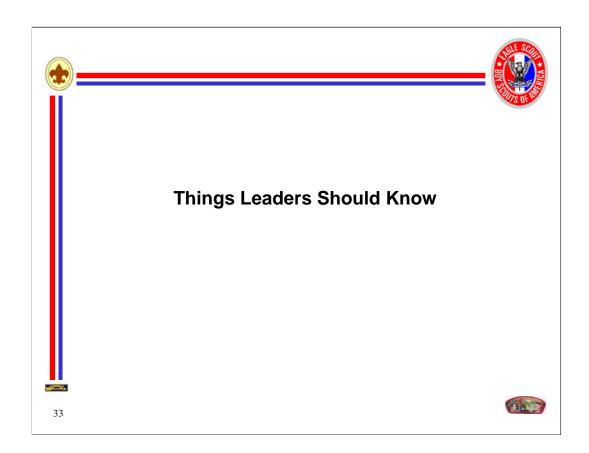
Troop Leadership Role

Final Eagle Scout Paperwork

❑ The original multi-color Eagle Scout Rank Application must have been completed in ink and signed by the Scout, Unit Leader, and Unit Committee Chair.

❑ This form is a fillable pdf, and should be completed online.
  - "typed" is easier to read and copy.
  - MB strikeouts are supported – select; right click; choose; left click

❑ Eagle Board sees this before meeting Scout!

❑ Once Application has been approved by Council
  - Unit is authorized to set up the Board of Review.
  - The scheduling procedure and Board structure varies by District.
  - The Unit Committee Chair needs to stay in contact with all involved.

Things Leaders Should Know

Troop Leadership Role

Scouts with Special Needs

❑ Consult with parents about the option of getting Scout **"Registered Beyond Age of Eligibility."**

This status removes the "by his 18th Birthday" requirements

❑ GTA 2015 – Section 10 spells it out.

- **Not all conditions qualify**
- **Minimum of 6 supporting documents needed**

    Form 512-935 should be used.

- **Requires Council Executive Board approval**

❑ Alternative Merit Badges may be substituted for required ones. Specific prior approval for each MB will be required.

34

District Role

HVC District Responsibilities

❑ Review and give approval to service project proposals created by Eagle Scout candidates

❑ Conduct Eagle Scout Boards of Review

❑ Manage the Eagle Scout Advancement process:
- track Scout progress
- keep the District Committee informed
- assign project proposal reviewers
- train Scouts, parents, leaders
- make decisions relative to new guidelines

❑ Be active in the Council Advancement Committee

Board Of Review

❑ A Eagle Scout Board of Review is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of six members

❑ Board Membership Criteria
- Must be 21 years of age or older.
- Must not be a relative of the Scout, nor a SM or an ASM.
- Do not have to be registered in Scouting, but must have an understanding of the importance and purpose of the Eagle Scout Board of Review.
- At least one District representative will serve as the Eagle Scout Board Chairman and set criteria for the Board.

Board Of Review

❑ Decision of the Board

  ▪ A positive and unanimous decision must be reached as to the Scout's qualifications, to successfully advance to Eagle rank.

  ▪ If a unanimous positive decision is not reached, an appeal may be made by the Scout, Unit Leader, or Unit Committee to the Council, and if needed, to National Scouting

  ▪ A negative decision must be documented, explaining why it occurred.

❑ Information Resource –
  Guide to Advancement 2015 (BSA # 33088)

Court Of Honor

❑ When a Scout has earned the Eagle Scout rank, he deserves special recognition

❑ The Court of Honor ceremony cannot be held until the action of the Board of Review has been approved by the National Eagle Scout Service

❑ Attaining Eagle is both a personal and a Troop success – the Court of Honor should recognize both

❑ Planning the Court of Honor should not be turned over to the Scout's parents.

Eagle Court Of Honor

❑ Plan well in advance – minimum two months needed for adequate planning

❑ Involve the Eagle Scout and his parents

❑ Decide on the ceremony to be used and plan the program

❑ Prepare a printed program

❑ Request letters from prominent people

❑ Send invitations to family, friends, troop parents, church/community/school leaders,

❑ Chartered organization and district/council representatives

❑ Obtain local newspaper coverage

Resources

Eagle Court of Honor Information Resources

- *Guide to Advancement 2015* (BSA #33088)

- U.S. Scouting Service Project http://www.nesa.org/

- The Eagle Court of Honor Book, Third Edition, © 2011 by Mark Ray

Wrap Up

❑ **Troop leadership is an awesome responsibility**

A team of leaders, such as yourselves, is needed by all those who start up the trail to Eagle to give them:

- credit for being on that right path
- all the encouragement you can to stay on that path
- all the leadership skill and knowledge you have.

❑ **Eagle Scout is a special rank**

Light their path to that special way of life and remember it is earned, not awarded

Contact Information

❑ If you want more information about the Life to Eagle Trail, please contact your District Eagle Advancement Committee Chair or Eagle Coordinator

❑ HVC web site: http://www.HudsonValleyScouting.org/

❑ Dutchess District website: http://www.ntown.info

❑ If you have any questions concerning the content of this presentation, please contact:
   Peter Dowley (pdowley@juno.com)
   Jim Duffy (JDuffy2465@aol.com)
   Joe Geraci (jsgeraci@optonline.net)

Aim To Soar

With The Eagles

Hudson Valley Council