

# LaSalle Council Youth Advancement

## What Is Advancement?

Advancement is the process by which youth members of the Boy Scouts of America progress from rank to rank in the Scouting program. Advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. Everything done to advance and earn these ranks, from joining until leaving the program, should be designed to help the young person have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Education and fun are functions of the Scouting movement, and they must be the basis of the advancement program. A fundamental principle of advancement in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing is the growth a young person achieves as a result of his/her participation in the unit program.

It is the responsibility of the Council Advancement Committee to oversee the advancement program within the Council area.

Your Council and District Advancement Committee contacts are:

### **Council Advancement Chairman:**

Greg Schoeneck, 219-405-0641 [g.schoeneck@comcast.net](mailto:g.schoeneck@comcast.net)

### **Dunes Moraine District Advancement Chairman:**

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### **Potawatomi District Advancement Chairman:**

Tom Fletcher, 219-874-4506, cell 219-861-4701 [dadfletch@comcast.net](mailto:dadfletch@comcast.net)

### **Algonquian District Advancement Chairman:**

Earl Carter, 574-631-7274, cell 703-217-9124 [ccarter6@nd.edu](mailto:ccarter6@nd.edu)

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### **Pioneer Trails District Advancement Chairman:**

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## **Advancement Principles**

Council and District Advancement Committees implement procedures that help achieve the following advancement principles:

**Personal growth is the prime consideration in the advancement program.**

Scouting skills—what a young person knows how to do—are important, but they are not the most important aspect of advancement. Scouting's concern is the total growth of youth. This growth may be measured by how youth live the Scouting ideals, and how they practice it in their daily lives.

**Learning by doing.** A Cub Scout, Boy Scout, or Venturer may read about skill or good citizenship. He/she may hear it discussed, and watch others in action, but he/she has not learned the skill until he/she has done it.

**Each youth progresses at his or her own rate.** Advancement is not a competition among individual young people, but is an expression of their interest and participation in the program. Youth must be encouraged to advance steadily and set their own goals with guidance from their parents, guardians, or leaders.

**A badge is recognition of what a young person is able to do, not merely a reward for what he or she has done.** The badge is proof of certain abilities, and is not just a reward for the completion of a task.

**Advancement encourages Scouting ideals.** Scouting teaches a young person how to care for himself/herself and help others. Advancement should reflect the desire to live the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, or Venturing Oath in his/her daily life.

## **Eagle Scout Process**

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, community or military service. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

Important documents that a Life Scout should download and review, considered the Life to Eagle Packet, are:

- Procedures for obtaining District approval of the proposed Eagle Scout project, including standards to be met in selecting and completing the project. Also, advice on completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application, time requirements and related information.
- Eagle Scout Rank Application
- Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook

## **The Eagle Trail (Life to Eagle Scout)**

The LaSalle Council Advancement Committee has put together this page as a resource for our Eagle Scout candidates, their families, and Scout leaders. The purpose of this information is to ensure that all Life Scouts that desire to become Eagle Scouts are aware of the procedure and that all four districts in LaSalle Council are meeting the same level of competency.

Information will be updated as needed to ensure that National and Council policies are implemented fully and fairly in each district.

The following 12 steps have been outlined to ensure a smooth procedure for the Scout, the unit leadership, the local council, and the volunteers who are to conduct the Board of Review. Eagle candidates should share these steps with their unit leader so that they can fully understand the procedures that must be followed.

Items below are the LaSalle Council's interpretations of Boy Scouts of America policies. Most items are clarifications but in some cases, the LaSalle Council Advancement Committee has been given the ability to set a Council Policy.

1. In order to advance to the rank of Eagle, while a Life Scout, a candidate must complete all the requirements of active tenure; Scout spirit; merit badges; positions of responsibility; planning, developing, and providing leadership to others in a service project; and the Scoutmaster conference.
2. Using the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook, the candidate must select his Eagle service project and have the project concept approved

by his unit leader, his unit committee, and the benefactor of the project, and reviewed and approved by the District Advancement Chairman before the project is started. This workbook must be used in meeting this requirement and should be expanded upon to completely explain the Scout's leadership and execution of the project. The Scout's Leadership Project Notebook should include a summary of the Scout's future goals, description of the Scout's honors and leadership other than those in Scouting, photographs with a detailed description of the project and its process.

When reviewing the project for approval, the unit and District Advancement Chairman is responsible for ensuring that the described project will allow the Eagle Scout candidate to demonstrate the proper level of leadership. If there is any concern about leadership, it must be expressed and resolved before the project is approved rather than at the Eagle Board of Review.

3. It is imperative that all requirements for the Eagle Scout rank except the Board of Review be completed prior to the candidate's 18th birthday. When all requirements except the Board of Review for the rank of Eagle, including the leadership service project and Scoutmaster Conference, have been completed, they must be completed and sent to the Council Service Center promptly. (Youth members with disabilities should contact the LaSalle Council Scout Center.)

All requirements, except for the Eagle Board of Review, must be completed prior to the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This includes the Scoutmaster Conference for the Eagle Scout rank. The Scout has up to 3 months to schedule and complete the Eagle Board of Review with the District Advancement Chairman. Boards of Review conducted between three and six months after the candidate's 18th birthday must be pre-approved by the Council Service Center. A statement by an adult explaining the reason for the delay must be attached to the Eagle Scout Rank Application when it is submitted to the local Council Service Center. Please see the current printing of the Advancement Committee: Policies and Procedures manual for more information on extensions.

4. The application should be signed by the unit leader at the proper place. The unit committee reviews and approves the record of the Eagle candidate before the application is submitted to the local council. If a unit leader or unit committee fails to sign or otherwise approve an application, the Eagle candidate may still be granted a Board of Review. The failure of a unit leader or unit committee to sign an application may be considered by the Board of Review in determining the qualification of the Eagle candidate.

The requirement for advancement is that the Scout participates in a Scoutmaster conference, not that he "passes" the conference. When advancement is going to be deferred, the Scout should not come to the Scoutmaster conference thinking that everything is OK and then be surprised

that his advancement is deferred. He should have had plenty of warning and guidance prior to the Scoutmaster conference.

5. The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook, properly filled out, along with The Leadership Project Notebook explaining the project, must be submitted with the Eagle Scout Rank Application to the Council Office.
6. In order to smoothly and uniformly evaluate references, the Council has elected to have references fill out a council-wide Eagle Scout Candidate reference form. The form may be downloaded from the Council web site. Forms should be completed by the reference and returned directly to Council Service Center. The District Advancement Committee is responsible for reviewing these references. If no references are received, the District Advancement Committee should contact the references listed prior to the Scout's Board of Review to attempt to solicit information on the Scout's character. If possible, the reference form should be completed by telephone so that it can be shared with the balance of the committee.
7. After the contents of an application have been verified and appropriately signed, the application, Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook, and references will be returned from the Council Service Center to the Chairman of the Eagle Board of Review so that a Board of Review may be scheduled. Under no circumstances should a Board of Review be scheduled until the application is returned to the chairman of the Eagle Board of Review. Reference checks that are forwarded with the application are confidential, and their contents are not to be disclosed to any person who is not a member of the Board of Review.

References that are contained with the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Workbook or application are confidential and should NOT be read by or given to any person that is not sitting as a reviewer on the Eagle Board of Review. It is imperative that the references or any accompanying letters are NOT given to the Eagle Scout candidate, his parents/guardians, or Scouting Leaders.

8. The Board of Review for an Eagle candidate is composed of at least three but not more than six members. One member serves as chairman. Unit leaders, assistant unit leaders, relatives, or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review. The Board of Review members should convene at least 30 minutes before the candidate appears in order to review the application, reference checks, and Leadership Service Project Notebook. At least one district or council advancement representative must be a member of the Eagle Board of Review if the Board of Review is conducted on a unit level. A council or district may designate more than one person to serve as a member of Eagle Boards of Review when requested to do so by the unit. It is not required that these persons be members of the Advancement Committee;

however, they must have an understanding of the importance of the Eagle Board of Review.

The members of the Board of Review should not be familiar with the candidate. They may have passing knowledge of him but should not be a close friend, teacher, mentor, religious advisor, or a person of a similar stature.

9. The candidate's unit leader introduces him to the members of the Board of Review. The unit leader may remain in the room, but does not participate in the Board of Review. The unit leader may be called on to clarify a point in question. In no case should a relative or guardian of the candidate attend the review, even as a unit leader. There is no set of questions that an Eagle candidate should be asked, however, the Board should be assured of the candidate's participation in the program. This is the highest award that a Scout may achieve and, consequently, a thorough discussion of his successes and experiences in Scouting should be considered. After the review, the candidate leaves the room while the Board members discuss the acceptability of the candidate as an Eagle Scout. **The decision must be unanimous.** If the candidate meets the requirements, he is asked to return and is informed that he will receive the Board's recommendation for the Eagle Scout rank. If the candidate does not meet the requirements, he is asked to return and told the reasons for his failure to qualify. A discussion should be held with him as to how he may meet the requirements within a given period. Should the applicant disagree with the decision, the appeal procedures should be explained to him. A follow-up letter must be sent to the Scout confirming the agreements reached and the action(s) necessary for the advancement. If the Scout chooses to appeal, the Board should provide the name and address of the person he is to contact. (See "Appealing a Decision" in Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures, No. 33088.)

If a Scout does not pass his Eagle Board of Review and decides to appeal the decision, the Scout, his unit leader, or his parents/guardians may appeal by sending a letter to the Council Advancement Chairman at the LaSalle Council Scout Center, 1340 South bend Ave. South Bend, IN 46617.

10. Immediately after the Board of Review and after the application has been appropriately signed, the Eagle Scout Rank Application and a properly completed Advancement Report are returned to the Council Service Center. Again, it is imperative that the Scout does NOT receive a copy of the references that were provided to the Board. They are to be destroyed by the Eagle Board Chairman. If a Scout or his family desires a copy of the reference or a letter, they should contact the reference directly for a copy. The Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook and Scouts Leadership Project Notebook should be returned to the Scout.

11. When the application arrives at the Council Service Center, the Scout Executive signs it to certify that the proper procedure has been followed and that the Board of Review has recommended the candidate for the Eagle Scout rank.

**Only the Eagle Scout Rank Application is forwarded to the National Eagle Scout Service.**

12. The National Eagle Scout Service screens the application to ascertain information such as proper signature, positions of responsibility, tenure between ranks, and age of the candidate. Any item not meeting National standards will cause the application to be returned for more information. If the application is in order, the Scout is then certified as an Eagle Scout by the Eagle Scout Service on behalf of the National Council. Notice of approval is given by sending the Eagle Scout certificate to the local council. The date used on the certificate will be the date of the Board of Review. The Eagle Award must not be sold or given to any unit until after the certificate is received by the Council Service Center. The Eagle Scout Court of Honor should not be scheduled until the local council receives the Eagle Scout rank credentials.

## **Merit Badge and Merit Badge Counselor Lists**

Who is a Merit Badge Counselor? Merit Badge Counselors are the key to success in the Merit Badge Plan. They offer their time, experience, and knowledge to help guide Scouts in one or more Merit Badge subjects.

### **The Counselor's responsibility is to**

1. Assist the Scout as he plans the assigned projects and activities to meet the Merit Badge requirements.
2. Coach Scouts through interviews and demonstrations on how to do the required skills of the craft, business, or hobby.
3. Certify the Scout after determining whether he is qualified for the Merit Badge.

### **The Scout's responsibility is to**

1. Obtain a signed Merit Badge Application or Blue Card from his Scoutmaster. Obtain the Merit Badge Book and be prepared to answer the requirements to the satisfaction of the Merit Badge Counselor.
2. Make an appointment with the Merit Badge Counselor to meet in a public place with a friend, fellow Scout, parent or relative. Two deep leadership or buddy system applies.

3. Dress in a Full Class a Uniform for the meetings. The Scout may need to meet several times with the Counselor to complete the requirements.
4. Return the completed signed Blue Card to the Troop Advancement Chairman.

## **National Eagle Scout Association**

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

## **Scholarships and Awards for Youth**

### **Eagle Scout Scholarships:**

<http://www.nesa.org/scholarships.html>

[http://www.nesa.org/adams\\_award.html](http://www.nesa.org/adams_award.html)

### **Lifesaving Awards:**

Recognition may be given to a member of the Boy Scouts of America—Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Venture, or adult leader—where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that he or she saved or attempted to save a life under circumstances that indicate heroism and risk of his or her own life. The National Court of Honor will give consideration to resourcefulness and to demonstrated skill in rescue methods.

### **Meritorious Action Awards:**

Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that a significant or outstanding act of service of exceptional character was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals. Recognition shall not be given where it appears that the action involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation.

### **Youth Awards:**

Civic Organizations recognize an individual's commitment to the service of others in Scouting and other areas of his/her life. Please check with local organizations such as The American Legion and VFW on the name of the award for more information.