

Preparing for Your Eagle Scoutmaster Conference

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Before your Eagle Scoutmaster conference, you need to fill out the Eagle Scout Rank Application, have the Eagle Scout service leadership project workbook completed and signed off, and know your Scout skills.

1. Eagle Scout Rank Application

Fill out your Eagle Scout Rank application on a computer so that it is neat. You can get a blank copy at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_web.pdf.

1.1 Requirement 2: References for Living the Scout Oath and Scout Law

Fill out the references section, including the religious reference. If you don't belong to a church, synagogue, mosque, etc., you can use a parent's or relative's name (per Peggy Gluck). If you have a job or had one over the summer, fill out the employer line; otherwise, leave it blank. Get permission from your references to use them. I won't sign the application if this section is not complete.

1.2 Requirement 3: Merit Badges

Fill in the dates that you earned your merit badges. Get these dates from the most recent Unit Advancement Summary, which is posted on our troop website on the Members page, in the Advancement Corner section (user = TroopMember, password = Tenderfoot).

For the Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, and for the Cycling or Hiking or Swimming options, cross out the merit badges that you're not using toward the twelve Eagle-required merit badges.

1.3 Requirement 4: Leadership

List the dates for one or two leadership positions while Life Scout. These must add up to at least six months. In our troop, elected positions last for exactly six months, November 1 to April 30, and May 1 to October 31.

1.4 Unit Leader Conference and Statement; Signatures

1.4.1 Statement

There is a "hidden" requirement here that is not in the *Boy Scout Handbook*: you must write a statement that gives (a) your ambitions and life purpose, (b) lists of leadership positions held at various institutions, and (c) lists honors awards. Don't worry if you don't have awards outside of Scouts.

I expect the statement to be about one to two pages long. This is a good opportunity to think about ideas for careers and research the education you would need for them (e.g., bachelor's degree, medical school, EMT training, apprenticeship). Think about a family, activities outside of work, and whether you can contribute to Scouting as an adult. How will you stay healthy?

1.4.2 Signatures

The Eagle applicant and Scoutmaster sign in the appropriate spaces at the Scoutmaster conference.

Next, the Unit Committee Chairperson, Bruce Kubicka, signs.

Make two copies of your application, Eagle project workbook, and statement before turning them in. These will be used at your Eagle Board of Review.

After that, the Scout or his parent delivers the Eagle Scout Rank Application to the Pacific Skyline Council office in Foster City (along with the statement and Eagle project workbook). The Scout is done handling the application at this point. Someone at the council office checks the references and merit badges and signs the BSA local council certification space. This is usually done within a week.

Later, Peggy Gluck picks the certified form up for the Pac Sky office. At the end of Eagle Board of Review, if you pass, the board's chairperson (Peggy) and council/district representative sign. That is the date you become an Eagle Scout.

Finally, back at the Pacific Skyline Council office, the Scout executive signs the form and it is sent to the BSA national council office.

2. Scout Skills

At your Eagle Scoutmaster conference, I will test you on many of the basic Scout skills from the Tenderfoot through First Class requirements. Below I list things you should know. Make sure you can do each of them *before* scheduling your Scoutmaster conference so that we don't have to have a second SM conference later on. Use this list as a checklist.

2.1 First Aid

- First aid for minor cuts and scrapes. Should alcohol or hydrogen peroxide be used? Why?
- First aid for puncture wounds
- Protecting yourself
- First aid for a bleeding head wound
- First aid for a badly bleeding leg wound
- First aid for a cut-off hand
- Identifying a broken arm and first aid for it
- First aid for first-, second-, and third-degree burns
- Safely approaching an accident scene; getting help
- Identifying stopped breathing and first aid for it (rescue breathing but not full CPR)
- Signs of a potential heart attack
- Identifying a stopped heart and first aid for it (CPR)
- Identifying choking and first aid for it in a standing person and for a person lying down
- Identifying shock, preventing shock, and first aid for shock
- Identifying hypothermia and first aid for it
- Identifying dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, and treatment for them
- Preventing blisters and treating blisters
- First aid for poisonous spider and rattlesnake bites (the modern first aid)
- Identifying poison oak and treatment if you touch it

2.2 Knots

- Tie a square knot. What is it used for?
- Tie a bowline. What is it good for?
- Tie a taut-line hitch. What is it good for? It is my favorite for a reason.
- Tie a clove hitch. What is it used for?

2.3 Citizenship

- Name three or more rights you have as a US citizen
- Name three or more duties you have as a US citizen (or a citizen of most countries)

- I think that your most important duty as a young person is to get a good education.
Know this.

- Fold a US flag
- On which side of the speaker does the US flag stand?

2.4 Cooking

- Name the food groups in the food pyramid and whether you should eat a lot or a little of each for good health
- How should raw meats be handled on a campout?
- How can you figure out how much food to bring on a campout for your patrol?
- What cooking utensils would you bring on a campout if we're having steak and pancakes?

2.5 Outdoors Skills

- What are good and poor places to pitch tents?
- How does Leave No Trace affect where you walk and set up camp?
- Name most of the essentials that you should bring with you on a long hike
- What in addition should you bring on a backpacking trip?
- How do you sharpen a knife?
- How do you build a fire?
- How do you find north without a compass during daytime and during nighttime? You should know that the sun rises in the east, is high but toward the south at noon, and sets in the west. Roughly where is the sun in mid-morning and mid-afternoon?
- What is the difference between magnetic north and true north? What is the declination here?
- Align a map using a compass so that north on the map points north
- What do the symbols on a topographical map mean?

2.6 Scout Ideals

- Recite the Scout Oath. How have you lived up to being physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight?
- Recite the Scout Law. How have you lived up to six of its twelve points?
- What are the Scout Motto and Scout Slogan? What do they mean to you?
- What is the Outdoor Code (you don't need to memorize it)? How have you followed it while camping and hiking?
- What are some things that a good leader does?
- What have you learned in your leadership roles?

3. The Conference

The Eagle conference will take about two hours.

In addition to Scout skills, I will ask some general questions. Some examples are:

- What were your favorite few merit badges and why?
- Did any merit badges make you think about a career?
- What do you like and dislike about Scouting?
- How can we make our troop better?
- If you could change one thing about Boy Scouts, what would it be?
- Do you think you'll be an adult leader later in life?

Come to both your Eagle Scoutmaster conference and Eagle Board of Review dressed in your full uniform, including neckerchief and sash. I like to be able to see which merit badges you've earned.