

FAQ's for TROOP 22 EAGLE CANDIDATES

1. Where can I get information about earning the Eagle rank?

Chester County Council has a website full of information. Go to: www.eaglescout.itgo.com. This is the site where you will also find the workbook that our Life Scouts must use to submit a proposal. Plan to attend a *Life to Eagle Seminar*, talk to your Scoutmaster and meet with your Troop Eagle Advisors.

2. What is my deadline to earn the Eagle rank?

The deadline for a Life Scout to earn Eagle is the day before his 18th birthday! You must have completed six of the seven requirements including all your merit badges, leadership, project, paperwork, and Scoutmaster conference before you turn 18. (See #12 below).

3. How do I get to be an Eagle Scout?

Scouts do not get the Eagle rank, they earn it! Yes, it is hard work and a large commitment. The ultimate goal in Scouting is a personal decision. Discuss your ambitions with your parents and establish a personal time line. Consider your other activities such as sports and a part time job. Talk to other Scouts in your Troop and help with some of their Eagle projects. Also talk to your Scoutmaster about your path to Eagle.

4. When should I do an Eagle Project?

The age when a Scout begins his Eagle Project varies, but it is NOT good to wait until your senior year in high school. Writing an Eagle Project Proposal takes months, and most high school seniors are busy completing college applications.

Many members of Troop 22 think that age 15 is a good time to begin the search for a project. While this is an opinion, our advice is do not procrastinate!

5. How long does it take to complete an Eagle Project?

It often takes a year from the time a Scout begins his search for an Eagle Project to the time all his final paperwork is completed. Scouts can spend months searching for their project, and Scouts often underestimate the planning process. Completing the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook* (See #1 above) is a lengthy process. You will also need to make a presentation to the Troop Committee and obtain four approvals/signatures before you can begin work.

6. How do I find a project?

Your Eagle Advisor has a list of contacts in the Unionville area, but you are not limited to these. What are your interests and abilities? What are your resources? What do you think will be a challenge to you and a significant benefit to your community? Where would you like to volunteer your time? Consider non-profit organizations such as your school, church or township, senior organizations, the Troop's Chartering organization, etc. Note: Your Scoutmaster must approve your project selection before you begin the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook*. (Projects may not be for the Boy Scouts or a "for-profit" type of business. For more information and ideas, check out the website www.eaglescout.itgo.com.

7. Who can help with my project?

Leaders in the Troop will give you advice while you are planning your project. They are very familiar with all the requirements. You may also need to visit a lumberyard for a construction project, or a nursery for a landscaping project to get information, etc. And parents are often a great resource, get them involved, but remember this is your leadership project.

The volunteers who can help you with the execution of your project will probably be members of the Troop, but family members and friends outside of Scouting can help, too.

8. How can my parents help?

Parents need to let you plan and lead your own project. But they can offer encouragement and advice and help to keep the process moving forward. If you get stuck... What is the next step? Ask a parent or ask your Eagle advisor, then keep moving forward.

Your parents are welcome to proofread and help with editing. Later, during the construction phase, it is your chance to be the boss and tell your dad what to do!

9. What do my fellow Scouts say about working towards Eagle?

No one enjoys the paperwork (and there is a lot of it), but it is a necessary part of the process. You will learn many organizational skills and improve your leadership skills. Earning Eagle is hard work but there will be a lot of personal satisfaction at a job well done. Most of our Scouts who wait until they are 17 wish they had planned to do their Eagle Project sooner.

"If I had to give advice to younger Scouts about their Eagle Project, I would say do not underestimate the time it takes. When you are 14 or 15, turning 18 seems a long time away. I got busy with other activities like sports or music [or work], and it seemed like the Eagle project could be put off another week, and another week. Pretty soon I was 17. There are always problems that you can't control like weather and holidays that will delay your project...So I would advise younger Scouts to expect the unexpected and be prepared for anything. Start early and stick with it!" (Chris S.)

10. What other skills will be needed to achieve the Eagle rank?

"One of the biggest challenges many Scouts face in completing their Eagle rank is the necessity of talking to adults one-on-one. The Scout will need to make appointments, discuss and defend the project, leave messages, request references, and ask for donations all by himself. If you are not comfortable with this to start, you will be by the end of the requirements. This is a skill that will help you in preparing for life after high school. The adults are there to help you, and they will coach you as you move forward, and you will get more confident as you move along." (Chris S.)

11. Is fundraising required?

Some receiving organizations have funds available for a project, but others will ask that you raise the necessary funds to purchase materials. Many Scouts ask for donations of money or materials. Some lumber companies are willing to donate a portion of the materials or give a substantial discount. There are also local service organizations that may consider your request for funding. Or hold a car wash or garage sale to raise money, etc. This takes extra effort and extra time. Once again, please do not procrastinate. Scouts and/or their family may not totally self-fund the Eagle Project.

12. When I have completed my project, what is next?

The project is certainly a big factor in earning the Eagle rank, but there are seven requirements to Eagle. These are listed on the Chester County Council website at www.eaglescout.itgo.com. Scouts are required to complete an "after-action report" concerning their project, obtain references, finish all merit badges, complete the *Request for Eagle Application* and its attachments, and meet with their Scoutmaster, etc. Don't forget the leadership requirement is a minimum of 6 months since earning the Life rank, Scout Spirit and Troop participation, etc. (Scouts must be active with Troop 22, which means 50% participation, for at least six months during their work towards Eagle). Plan ahead and please don't procrastinate.

Best wishes on your path to Eagle!