

**Troop 10**  
**Life to Eagle Guide**

*Compiled by Flynn Bowie and Roy Laney*

Congratulations on earning your Life Rank. If you are interested in earning your Eagle Rank, Troop 10 will support you in your efforts. These are the steps to get from Life to Eagle.

**1. Be active in your Troop for a period of at least six (6) months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout.**

For this Rank requirement Troop 10 expects you to:

- Attend meetings
- Attend camping trips
- Be present and participate as a leader
- Set a positive leadership example for younger Scouts

**2. Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout law in your daily life.**

On your Eagle application you will be required to list the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, including parents, guardians, religious, educational and employer references. At this point you need to be thinking about who can write letters of recommendation for you. These people should know your character so that they can provide the information needed to evaluate your Eagle application.

**3. Earn a total of 21 Merit Badges, including the following Eagle required Merit Badges:**

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication
- Cooking
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving
- Environmental Science or Sustainability
- Personal Management
- Swimming, Hiking or Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

You need to make sure all of your Merit Badges are sewn onto your sash and that your Life Patch is sewn onto your uniform.

4. **While a Life Scout, serve actively in your troop for a period of six (6) months, in one of the following positions of responsibility:**

- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Senior Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide
- Order of Arrow Representative
- Den Chief
- Scribe
- Librarian
- Historian
- Quartermaster
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- Chaplain Aide
- Instructor
- Webmaster
- Leave no Trace Trainer

You will need to coordinate with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster regarding your position. You also need to keep up with the date when you begin and end your tenure in the leadership position. Troop 10 expects that you will be active and helpful in your position and that you will provide leadership to the Troop.

5. **While a Life Scout plan, develop and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or to your community. The project must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.**

Planning, developing and completing your Eagle Project will be a great experience for you. These are some things you need to keep in mind:

- The Eagle Scout rank is earned by you and not by your parents, friends or volunteers with the Troop.
- It is key that you provide leadership in your project. The project is not about you doing all of the work. You must plan, organize and lead others to complete the project.
- Keep up with your paperwork. There are five components of the paperwork requirements, all of which are discussed in detail below. These are the components:
  - Troop 10 Project Summary
  - Eagle Scout Project Proposal
  - Eagle Scout Project Plan
  - Eagle Scout Project Report
  - Eagle Scout Application
- **You must earn your Eagle Scout Rank before you reach the age of 18. The length of time from start to finish is often in the range of twelve (12)**

**to eighteen (18) months. You will need to begin your project far in advance of your eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday so that you can earn your Eagle Rank on time.**

These are the steps you will need to follow:

Step 1: Select an Eagle coach.

- Although not required, it will be very helpful if you have an Eagle coach to answer questions and assist you in the Eagle Scout process. Your Eagle coach can be your Assistant Scoutmaster.

Step 2: Select your project.

- Your project must benefit a religious institution, a school or your community. The Boy Scouts of America has defined your community to include the community of the world. Normally your community does not refer to individuals. You cannot do a project which benefits the Boy Scouts of America.
- Select a project which is helpful to the community, but is achievable by you and your team of volunteers. Do not select a project that is too difficult for you to manage. Remember, this is your project, not your parents' project.
- If you are having trouble selecting a project you can contact local non-profit organizations. Many organizations have an Eagle Scout wish list and are eager to hear from you.
- Identify and contact the beneficiary to review the project.
- Agree on the scope of the project with your beneficiary.

Step 3. Prepare your Troop 10 summary proposal.

- Troop 10 requests that Eagle Scout candidates prepare a one to two paragraph summary of the proposed project. This summary will set forth the overview of your project and include details about your design and materials. You also should include a drawing or sketch of your proposed project.
- The Indian Waters Council website has an Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook which you will be using. The Workbook contains an Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal form. You do not need to fill out this proposal form to meet with the Troop Committee, as the Troop Committee will only need to see your one to two paragraph summary. However, it will be helpful for you to review the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal form to plan your project.
- After you have completed your summary, meet with your Eagle coach to see if he or she has any ideas which can help you.

Step 4. Meet with Troop 10 Troop Committee.

- After completing your summary proposal you will meet with the Troop 10 Troop Committee. The Troop Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. You will need to inform the Scoutmaster in advance when you plan to meet with the Troop Committee. At the Troop Committee meeting you need to be prepared to present your proposal and to respond to

questions from the Troop Committee members. The Troop Committee is there to help you and may offer some suggestions to improve your project. You will need to be present at the meeting in full uniform with sash and Life Scout Patch sewn onto your uniform. The Committee will provide you with some good feedback, so follow the Committee's recommendations.

Step 5. Prepare your Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal.

- On the Indian Waters Council website you will find an Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. You can download the Workbook onto your computer. The Project Workbook contains an Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal form. Part of the form has names and addresses regarding contact information. You will need to request this information from the Scoutmaster. After you have completed the form, have your Eagle coach review it with you. After your coach has reviewed the Proposal form, you will need to sign it and obtain your beneficiary's signature. When you and your beneficiary have signed the form, submit it to the Scoutmaster for review, approval and signature.

Step 6. District Approval.

- The Indian Waters Council Congaree District also must approve your Eagle Scout project. The Scoutmaster will submit your proposal to the District for approval. If the District approves your proposal you will receive a letter or approval. Also, the District may offer some suggestions regarding your project. **Do not begin working on your project until you have received a letter from the District approving your project. Also, please note that the District approval may take two (2) to three (3) weeks.**

Step 7. Complete your project.

- Following the District approval, you are authorized to begin working on your Eagle Scout project. These are some key considerations.
  - Become familiar with Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. The Workbook offers a very good plan for completing your project.
  - Complete your Eagle Scout Service Project Plan which is contained in the Project Workbook. The Project Plan will help you think through the steps needed to complete your project.
  - Remember, this is a leadership project. You should not complete the project on your own. You need to organize volunteers and lead them in completing the project.
  - Troop 10 recommends fund raising through family, Troop 10 friends and the beneficiary. If you want to raise money outside of these groups, you will need to get additional permission from the Indian Waters Council.
  - Many stores offer discounts for Eagle Scout projects.
  - Keep a detailed time log of all time you and any of your volunteers spend working on your Eagle Scout project. This is not only time you spend constructing your project, but also includes time you spend

- working on your plans, meeting with your Eagle coach, buying supplies and attending meetings.
- Promote your Eagle Scout project within the Troop to recruit volunteers. You will need to do this early and not the week before you begin the project work.
  - Safety is a key consideration.
    - Only adults are allowed to use power tools.
    - You will need to have a first aid kit available and a way to communicate in case of an emergency.
    - You also need to consider weather conditions and the ability to get to shelter in case of bad weather.
  - After completing your project, complete the Eagle Scout Service Project Report. Both you and your beneficiary must sign this.
  - Send thank you letters to your donors.

Step 8. Prepare an Eagle Scout Project Notebook.

- Now that you have completed your project you will need to assemble a notebook of all of your materials. This is what you will need for your notebook in the following order:
  - Signed Eagle Scout Application. This is form can be found on the Indian Waters Counsel website under Eagle Scout Resources. This form will require you to input information about your Merit Badges and leadership positions. If you do not have this information please ask your Assistant Scoutmaster for your Individual History Report.
  - Statement of Ambition. Your statement of ambition is a one-page statement which you will prepare which sets forth your goals. Attached is a sample copy of a statement of ambition.
  - Eagle Project Approval Letter from District.
  - Troop 10 Proposal Summary
  - Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal
  - Eagle Scout Service Project Plan
  - Eagle Scout Service Project Report
  - Time log
  - Budget / receipts
  - Sample thank you letter
  - Before and after photos

Please put all of these materials into individual plastic folders so that it will stay organized in your notebook.

Step 9. Request Your Letters of Recommendation.

- The Scout shall have listed six references (five if no employer, and parent if no organized religious association).
- The Scout needs to write each reference and request that he or she: (i) write a letter of reference to the Indian Waters Council, (ii) complete and provide

Indian Waters Council recommendation form. The Scout also should include a stamped envelope addressed to the Indian Waters Council.

Step 10. Present your Notebook to the Troop Committee.

- Troop Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- You will need to appear in full uniform with all Merit Badges sewn onto your sash and Life Rank on your uniform.
- You will need to bring your Eagle Notebook and fully completed Scout Handbook to the meeting.
- Make sure your Scout Handbook is updated with all of your Merit Badges and other Eagle Rank requirements. While you are doing this you need to make sure that your camping log and service hours log have been updated.
- At the meeting you need to be prepared to discuss the completion of your Eagle Scout project to include how you provided leadership and how you dealt with challenges. You will also need to be prepared to discuss your overall Scout career with Troop 10.
- The Troop Committee Chair and the Scoutmaster will sign your Eagle Scout application.

Step 11. Provide your Notebook to the Indian Waters Council.

- After you have obtained all approvals and signatures you will need to bring your notebook to the Indian Waters Council office, located at 715 Betsy Dr. # B6, Columbia, SC 29210.

Step 12. Attend District Board of Review.

- The District Board of Review is your final step in the process. The District Board of Review meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. After you turn in your Notebook, you will receive a telephone call from the District to schedule this meeting. As with the meetings with Troop 10, you will need to be very prepared for this Board of Review. The Board will consist of Scout leaders outside of Troop 10. They will ask you questions about your project and be very interested in the leadership which you provided. The Scoutmaster will meet with you prior to the District meeting to help you get prepared. You must wear your uniform and bring your Scout Handbook.

Congratulations! After completing the District Board of Review you are now an Eagle Scout. You may schedule your Eagle Rank ceremony at a Troop 10 Court of Honor or you can coordinate with the Scoutmaster to have an individual ceremony. Also, your parents may want to coordinate for a reception after your ceremony.