

Eagle Scout Award Board of Review Black Warrior Council, B.S.A.

The Black Warrior Council Executive Board approved these procedures, as outlined in the “Guide to Advancement” on May 16, 2024. Units within the Black Warrior Council are to follow these procedures for Scouts working toward the rank of Eagle Scout.



Standard Guidelines for ALL Boards of Review

[Purpose & Timeliness]

“After a Scout has completed the requirements for any rank (except Scout rank), he or she appears before a board of review. A board of review must be a personal and individual experience. Its purpose is to determine the quality of a Scout’s experience and decide whether the requirements for a rank have been fulfilled. Because the board of review date becomes the effective advancement date, boards should be scheduled promptly as Scouts are ready, or set up on a regular basis, to assure the Scout is not delayed in beginning time-oriented requirements for the next rank (or, attainment of Eagle palms).”
8.0.0.1

[Boards of Review Must Be Granted When Requirements Are Met]

- A Scout shall not be denied this opportunity.
- It is not the responsibility of the Scout to request or organize a board of review. Neither can a board of review be denied or postponed due to issues such as uniforming, payment of dues, participation in fundraising activities, etc.
- A Scout must be actively registered in Scouting through the time working on requirements but need not be registered thereafter or when their boards of review are conducted.
- If there is a concern that a Scout has not completed all requirements for the Eagle Scout rank, it is appropriate to advise him or her of what might be done to improve the chances for success. It is , however, the Scout’s decision to go ahead with the board of review or not.

8.0.0.2

[Composition of the Board of Review]

- A minimum of 3 members but no more than 6, all of whom are at least 21 years of age.
- Unit leaders and assistants may not serve on a board of review.
- Parents, guardians, or relatives may not serve on a board of review for their child.
- The candidate, parents or guardians, or relatives shall have no part in selecting any board of review members.
- Members of the board of review need not be registered in Scouting, but they must have an understanding of the rank and the purpose and importance of the review. 8.0.3.0

[Wearing the Uniform – or Neat in Appearance]

It is preferred that a Scout be in full field uniform for any board of review. The Scout should wear as much as he/she owns, and it should be as correct as possible, with the badges worn properly. If wearing part or all of the uniform is impractical for any reason, the candidate should be clean and neat in appearance and dressed appropriately, according to the Scout’s means. Boards of review shall not reject candidates solely for reasons related to uniforming or attire, as long as they are dressed to the above description. 8.0.0.4

[Conducting the Board of Review]

A board of review is an important occasion and one where most anyone who understands its importance would have some level of nervousness. A certain level of formality and meaningful questioning should exist, but it is important that the atmosphere is relaxed and that the review is conducted with the Scout Law in mind. It may help if the unit leader introduces the candidate and a few minutes are spent getting acquainted.

General Guidelines

- The unit leader may remain in the room, but only to observe and not to participate unless called upon. Otherwise, the number of observers in the room should be minimized.
- Youth observers are not permitted.
- The Scout's parents, relatives, or guardians should not be in attendance in any capacity. However, if a parent insists on being present, they must be allowed to do so as an observer.
8.0.1.0
- The board of review is not a retest or "examination". One reason for a board of review is to help ensure the Scout did what was supposed to have been done to meet the requirements, however, it may not become a retest or examination or a challenge of the Scout's knowledge. *In most cases, it should be a celebration of accomplishment.*
- A Scout may not be rejected for reasons unrelated to advancement requirements.

What Should Be Discussed

- During the review, Board members may refer to the *Scouts BSA Handbook*, *Troop Leader Guidebook*, *Guide to Advancement*, and other such references. The *Troop Committee Guidebook* has examples of appropriate questions.
- Board members may ask where skills were learned, who the Scout's teachers were, and what was gained from fulfilling selected requirements.
- Discussion of how the Scout has lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law at home, at school, in the unit, and in the community should be included.
- A board is not required to record "minutes", but it is a good idea.

Board of Review Process for Rank of Eagle Scout

The local unit committee is responsible for conducting the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

1. After the Scoutmaster conference is held and the Scoutmaster informs the Committee Chair that a Scout is ready for an Eagle Board of Review, the Unit Committee:
 - determines who will serve on the board of review (at least one district representative, who is not affiliated with the unit, must serve as a member; if requested, more than one may do so)
 - unit committee determines who will serve as the chair of the board of review.
2. The board of review shall not occur until after the council has verified the application;
3. The chair of the board of review works with all involved parties to schedule a date, time, and place; reviews should be scheduled promptly to avoid delaying a Scout's opportunity to earn Eagle palms.
4. A board of review must not be denied or postponed due to unresponsive references.
5. To go over the application, references, and service project workbook, members should convene at least 30 minutes before the scheduled board of review.
6. Eagle boards typically last 30 minutes or somewhat longer. Rarely, should one last longer than 45 minutes.
7. The decision of the board must be unanimous. An Eagle candidate may only have one board of review (though it may be adjourned and reconvened).

Note: An Eagle board of review may be held, without special permission, up to 24 months after a Scout's 18th birthday. All requirements must have been completed before a Scout turns 18.



The Eagle Scout Board of Review is a momentous occasion for a Scout. It should be as much a celebration of accomplishment as a review of requirements completed. Its purpose is to determine the quality of a Scout's experience and decide whether the requirements for a rank have been fulfilled.

Questions should be focused on the Scouting experience, what the Scout – from his or her perspective – feels they have gained from Scouting, and how what they have learned will guide them into adulthood. Probing questions about an experience or the Scout's belief in how it has provided guidance for his or her life are fine if those questions are not perceived as challenging to the Scout's individual experience.

Members of Boards of Review are reminded that once a merit badge counselor has approved a merit badge for a Scout and signed off that it has been completed, that may not be changed. Once a Scout completes his or her Eagle Scout project, and it is approved by the project benefactor and Scoutmaster, that project may not be changed. It is not the role of the Eagle Board of Review process to determine the quality or question the viability of a particular badge or project earned if approved by the appropriate person at the time of completion. The Eagle Board of Review is tasked with seeing that the rank requirements – merit badges, leadership positions, service project – was completed and in the appropriate timeframe. The Eagle Board of Review should be focused on how these experiences have shaped a Scout's understanding of the Scout Oath and Law, and how these experiences will be applied in later life.

If, however, the members of a Board of Review seem to determine that perhaps a merit badge counselor did not maintain the integrity of a merit badge while working with a Scout, that concern may be shared with district and council leadership. It may be that further training for the counselor is needed or a change in counselors is warranted.

Sample Questions

1. What did you learn as you went through the process of carrying out your Eagle Service Project?
2. In what ways do you feel that you grew in organizational skills, leadership, or time management while you completed your Eagle Service Project?
3. After your Eagle Scout Service Project was completed, did you think about any changes you would have made in the planning or while carrying out the project?
4. Why did you select the Eagle Project you carried out and how do you think it benefited others?
5. During the carrying out of your project, did the occasion arise where you had to lead others through a possible disagreement about some aspect of the project?
6. Which of the merit badges did you enjoy the most and why?
7. Have any of the merit badges you attained helped your thinking about a possible career path?
8. Did you find yourself struggling with any of the requirements of a particular badge and if so, what did you do to overcome that struggle?
9. How has Scouting affected the way you treat others in your daily life?
10. Which leadership positions have you held in your troop and what do you feel you gained from those experiences?
11. What will you do as an Eagle Scout to give back to Scouting?
12. Part of the awards ceremony describes a new Eagle Scout "as a marked man (person)". What do you think that means in terms of your community's expectations?
13. What outdoor experience have you had that you wish every Scout could experience?
14. Which point of the Scout Law do you think is the hardest for the youth of today to follow and why?
15. You are about to breathe your last breath. What is the one Scouting memory (beginning with Cub Scouts and through today) that would put a smile on your face?