



# August 2025 NORTH STAR DISTRICT LIFE to EAGLE GUIDE

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**GETTING YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT EAGLE TEAM:** Please email [NorthStarDistrict@aol.com](mailto:NorthStarDistrict@aol.com), or text 919-819-7956. We'll review basics to ensure that you have the required information and approvals (signatures). **You must use the official current Eagle service project workbook version 512-927.** All pages of the Proposal section must be complete, including the approval signatures other than the district approval. Once we've completed this important step, we will schedule a meeting.\*\* **Please attend this meeting in "Class A" uniform.** Project review meetings with the district typically take 45 - 60 minutes, depending on complexity of the project, preparedness of the scout, etc...

**\*\* Meetings are conducted in-person, at Soapstone UMC. When warranted, a Zoom meeting may be scheduled to review the material, with a separate brief in-person meeting to approve your proposal.**

STARTING YOUR PROJECT BEFORE OBTAINING ALL APPROVALS WILL LIKELY VOID THAT PROJECT, SO PLEASE DON'T JUMP THE GUN!

## ITEMS TO BRING TO THE DISTRICT PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW:

- ① Your Eagle Scout Service Project **PROPOSAL** section – printed copy – especially the signature page!
- ② Pen or pencil to take notes.

**EAGLE PROJECT RESPONSIBILITY / TIME FRAME / NAME:** Eagle projects may not be shared; only one candidate can receive credit. Most projects are completed within six months of district approval, but it's not required. **Please give your project a specific, descriptive and succinct name.**

**INELIGIBLE PROJECTS:** ① Routine labor; ② Projects for a business or commercial in nature ③ Fund-raisers (except to raise money to buy materials for your project); ④ Projects for Scouting America, its councils, districts, units, or properties; ⑤ "father-son" (or "parent-child") projects; ⑥ do-it-all yourself projects, or ⑦ projects in which you play a secondary role (someone else does the planning and leading).

## ITEMS TO COMPLETE TO APPLY FOR THE EAGLE SCOUT RANK:

- ① At least 21 **merit badges** (including specific Eagle-required merit badges) **by your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**
- ② At least six months in approved **position of responsibility** in your troop **by your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**
- ③ Your **Eagle Scout service project** and the **Service Project Workbook by your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**
- ④ **Ask each reference on your Eagle application to write a recommendation** on your behalf.
- ⑤ Prepare a **statement of your ambitions and life purpose.** (See *Statement of Life Purpose* section).
- ⑥ Prepare a typed or ink current **original 2025** Eagle Scout Rank Application.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Requirement 2 reads: ***Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your daily life and tell how you have done your Duty to God. List the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf.*** We do this in Occoneechee Council by letters of recommendation.

Letters of recommendation are an essential part of the Eagle process. We want to confirm that you reflect the Scouting ideals in **your everyday life.** You need a minimum of four references. You can request additional references if you choose. You should not request references from a parent or other relative. References from your scoutmaster or troop committee are prohibited.

**The best way to secure your references is to create an account at [www.EagleRefs.org](http://www.EagleRefs.org).** Once you've entered the contact information for your references (which is identical to what you enter on your Eagle Scout Rank Application), the site sends an email to each, providing them a unique link to submit a **confidential** reference. You can monitor the progress of your references 24/7. **99% of our Eagle candidates successfully use EagleRefs.org.**

If you do not use EagleRefs.org, the only other approved option is having references mail letters to the council service center at:

**Eagle Board of Review for (Candidate name)**  
Occoneechee Council, Scouting America  
3231 Atlantic Avenue  
Raleigh, NC 27604



**A- Contact your references NOW!** It takes time to write a thoughtful letter. Don't wait until you're turning in your paperwork to ask for letters. Be sure to select people that are willing to write letters on your behalf.

**B- Request letters from at least four individuals.**

BSA requires confidentiality for all references. **Please do not collect letters of recommendation yourself, nor have them collected by your parents or scoutmaster. We will not accept letters delivered by any means other than the two methods outlined.**

**STATEMENT OF AMBITIONS and LIFE PURPOSE:** *In preparation for your board of review, prepare a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community or other organizations in which you demonstrated leadership. Include honors and awards received during this service.* The statement of life purpose is a **forward-looking** document! What do you want to study (and where), your future profession, how you plan to contribute to your family, your community, and the world around you. It is not a journal (or diary), and it is not an essay on how much Scouting means to you. **Use the PDF-fillable Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose document posted at <https://northstar.ocscouts.org/advancement/life-to-eagle/> !**

#### WHAT DO I DO WHEN I'VE COMPLETED ALL MY EAGLE REQUIREMENTS?

Deliver your Eagle Scout Rank Application, your Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook and your Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose form to the council service center at 3231 Atlantic Avenue in Raleigh, NC. All three items must be fully complete, and must be delivered together so as to avoid items getting lost or misplaced. In-person delivery is preferred, and can be delivered by you, your parent, your unit leader, or unit committee. If you mail your materials, send it certified / return receipt requested. **If you cannot submit these items by your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, do so as promptly thereafter as possible. Please allow the council office up to two weeks to process your application.**

**DIGITAL PHOTO OF YOUR EAGLE PROJECT:** Please register your project on [www.EagleRefs.org](http://www.EagleRefs.org) so we can include it on our district site and in the videos shown at the Council Eagle Banquet. If you have trouble uploading a great digital photo, you can email your best photo to [NorthStarDistrict@aol.com](mailto:NorthStarDistrict@aol.com).

#### SCHEDULING YOUR EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW:

After we have received your Eagle packet from the council office, we will contact you via email to ensure that all paperwork items are accurate and complete, and that you have successfully registered your Eagle Scout service project on EagleRefs, including a great digital photo of your completed Eagle project, and to schedule your Eagle board of review. **Our goal is to complete each board within 30 days of receiving your packet from the Eagle Service Desk.** While Requirements 1 – 6 must be completed before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Requirement 7 (successful Eagle Scout board of review) can take place **after your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.** You cannot miss out on earning Eagle solely because your board was held after you turned 18!

**ITEMS TO BRING TO YOUR EAGLE BOARD:** Bring your handbook so it can be reviewed and signed. Please wear your Class A uniform (Scout shirt with correct insignia, and especially **merit badge sash**). Since the board of review is not an Order of the Arrow event, no OA sash should be worn.

**YOUR EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW:** You will be asked to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time of your Eagle board, so we can answer any questions as well as capture photos of this momentous occasion in your Scouting journey.

Once in the board room, your scoutmaster will introduce you to the board. Unless the scoutmaster is a relative, he/she may remain in the room during the board, but is not allowed to participate. The Eagle board consists of three to six members assigned by the district. Your scoutmaster, assistant scoutmasters, parents, guardians, or relatives cannot serve on your board nor be spectators in the room during the review or during the board's deliberations.

**EAGLE BOARD OF REVIEW TOPICS:** The Eagle Scout board of review is your opportunity to share what you've experienced in Scouting, and what you've learned. It is also a time to share many of the amazing things you've done in your everyday life. The Eagle Board serves to maintain the standards of quality of the Eagle Scout rank. For this reason, the Eagle Scout rank is awarded only upon a unanimous favorable vote of the board members.

Despite misinformation (urban legends) touted by so-called "experts", there is no such thing as an Eagle board script, nor a list of "must ask" questions. There is no value in holding a mock board, nor rehearsing your answers. Our board volunteers are excited to meet the real you, and to hear what you have to say.

**RECEIVING YOUR EAGLE** Upon successful completion of your Eagle board of review, your paperwork is sent to the council office, signed by the Scout Executive and forwarded to BSA Supply for processing. Turnaround time for your approved application and certificate to return from national is usually four (4) weeks. Your Eagle Scout credentials, along with your Eagle Scout patch and medal, will be presented to you by your troop at a Court of Honor, in accordance with the standard practices of your troop.



In addition to your individual Court of Honor recognition, our council sponsors an Eagle Scout Banquet, held in the first quarter of each year, to honor all our Eagle Scouts from the prior calendar year. We encourage you to join your fellow Eagle Scouts for this celebration.

**AGE GUIDELINES FOR TOOL USE / WORK AT ELEVATIONS OR EXCAVATIONS:** Safety is of paramount importance in all Scouting activities, and your Eagle Scout project workdays are Scouting activities as defined in the Guide to Safe Scouting (G2SS). In addition to BSA adult two-deep leadership, you have a responsibility to ensure safety. Even if a youth volunteer is in an authorized age bracket to use a certain tool, he or she must still be shown how to safely use the tool! Any person – youth or adult – engaging in horseplay or other unsafe practices must not be allowed to use any tool that puts others at risk.

### HAND TOOLS

Type of Tool	Youth to 14 yrs	Youth 14 – 16 yrs	Youth 16+ yrs	Adults
Leaf / grass rake	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Hoe	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Shovel	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Hand clipper (small)	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Screwdrivers	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Nail hammer	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Handsaw	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Trowel	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Hose spray washer	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Wood sanding block (handheld)	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Wood chisel (Scouts w/ Totin Chip)	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Pocketknife (Scouts w/ Totin Chip)	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Pickaxe	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Mattock	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Posthole digger	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Wheel cart (1-, 2-, or 4-wheeled)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Paint roller with extension pole	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized

### POWER TOOLS

Type of Tool	Youth to 14 yrs	Youth 14 – 16 yrs	Youth 16+ yrs	Adults
Screwdriver (electric)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Power drill (plug-in or cordless)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Handheld sander (small)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Cutting tools (e.g. Dremel, small)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Paint sprayer (small, less than 50 psi)	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Lawn mower (self-propelled, riding)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Commercial lawn mower (all types)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Line trimmer (electric, gas-powered)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Edger (electric, gas-powered)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Leaf blower (electric, gas-powered)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Hedge trimmer (electric, gas powered)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Belt sander (electric, cordless)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Pressure washer (>50 but <100 psi)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Circular, radial arm, reciprocating saw	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Band or scroll saws; jig saw	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Router / planer	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Chain saws (electric, gas-powered)	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Log splitters	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Wood chippers	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized

### WORKING AT HEIGHTS and ELEVATIONS

ELEVATION OF WORK	Youth Up to 14 yrs	Youth 14 or older	Adults
Up to 4 feet	Step stools	Authorized	Authorized
Above 4 feet	Not Authorized	Up to 6-ft ladder	Authorized
Scaffolds above 4 feet	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized
Open platforms above 4 feet w/ fall protection	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Authorized

### WORKING AT EXCAVATIONS

TYPE OF WORK	Youth Up to 14 yrs	Youth 14 or older	Adults
Depth up to 4 feet	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Post holes – Depth up to 48" / width up to 18"	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Depth greater than 4 feet	Not Authorized	Not Authorized	Not Authorized
Areas with underground utilities	Call B4 U Dig	Call B4 U Dig	Call B4 U Dig

**NOTE: Anyone acting in an immature or unsafe manner should not be allowed to operate a tool, nor work at heights or excavations, as they are a danger to themselves and others!**

# REQUESTING REFERENCES USING EAGLEREFS.ORG

Occoneechee Council uses a proprietary site that is a fast, easy and secure method for Eagle Scout candidates to request letters of reference to be used by the Eagle Scout board of review: [EagleRefs.org](http://EagleRefs.org) !

The Eagle Scout candidate simply visits EagleRefs.org and creates an account, individual to the scout, using his / her email address and a password they create.

Upon creating the account, the scout then enters the names, addresses and email addresses of each of the references the scout wishes to have contacted by EagleRefs.org.

Each of the scout's references will receive an email from EagleRefs.org with a unique log-on so that the reference can prepare and send his/her reference. The entry and sending is a one-time only usage, which maintains the confidentiality of the reference. The reference cannot be forwarded or shared, also preserving confidentiality.

Best of all, the scout can monitor their reference requests anytime day or night. When the requests are sent and received at a confirmed email address, a yellow square will appear.

**OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL EAGLEREFS LOGIN**

EagleRefs is a service for collecting Eagle Scout Letters of Recommendation for Eagle Candidates in the [Occoneechee Council of North Carolina](#).

ⓘ Don't have an account? ✕

[Click here to download directions \(PDF\)](#)

Email

TonnyEagleExample@gmail.com

Password

.....

[LOG IN](#)

Forgot your password? [Click here for help](#)

First Name	Last Name ▲	Unit	District	BSA Scout Id	Reference Letters	Eagle Project
Blake	A	Troop 2	North Star	1-████████8	□ □ □ □	□

As references are received, each is identified with a green checkmark.

First Name	Last Name ▲	Unit	District	BSA Scout Id	Reference Letters	Eagle Project
Blake	A	Troop 2	North Star	1-████████8	✓ □ ✓ □	□

When all references are received, you'll know it by seeing all the green checkmarks.

First Name	Last Name ▲	Unit	District	BSA Scout Id	Reference Letters	Eagle Project
Blake	A	Troop 2	North Star	1-████████8	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓

The Council Eagle Desk is notified electronically so that the references can be printed and placed with your file to send to the Eagle board. There is even a place for you to register your Eagle Scout service project.

The use of EagleRefs.org is *strongly* preferred, and is used by 99% of our Eagle Scout candidates.





## WHEN IS A FUNDRAISING APPLICATION REQUIRED? ADVICE FOR EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATES OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL



- ITEM A:** As provided in the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, an Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application must be used in obtaining approval for service project fundraising of monies and for in-kind donations of materials, supplies, tools, or other needs.
- ITEM B:** BSA exempts contributions from certain sources. ***No Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application is required when your fundraising comes from these sources, no matter how much money (or goods / materials) they donate.*** These sources are:
- 1) The Eagle Scout candidate;
  - 2) The Eagle Scout candidate's parents or relatives;
  - 3) The Eagle Scout candidate's unit;
  - 4) The Eagle Scout candidate's chartered organization;
  - 5) Any of the Eagle Scout candidate's unit's parents or members;
  - 6) The beneficiary of the Eagle Scout candidate's service project.
- ITEM C:** BSA provides the following position statement regarding council authority:  
*Local councils may determine that certain types of fundraisers such as bake sales and car washes do not require a fundraising application. Councils may also establish dollar thresholds, as well; for example, "Any effort expected to raise less than \$500 does not require an application."*
- ITEM D:** **Effective September 1, 2023**, Occoneechee Council has added the following exemptions:
- 7) A fundraising application shall **NOT** be required for an event or events in which money is raised from a large number of contributors, often anonymous, and for which a good or service is provided in exchange for the person's contribution. Examples of such events include car washes, pet washes, bake sales, spaghetti or BBQ suppers, and pancake breakfasts. Online solicitations ("crowdfunding") are **NOT** included here as the donor(s) receive no goods or services in exchange for their donation.
  - 8) A fundraising application shall **NOT** be required for any effort (or efforts) by a single Eagle Scout candidate that is expected to raise **less than \$2000** in cash or in-kind materials/supplies from a source or sources not exempted by National (Items 1 – 6), or by Occoneechee Council (Item 7). **Online solicitations ("crowdfunding") shall be governed by this section.**
- ITEM E:** All proceeds left over from an Eagle Scout candidate's fundraising or donations - whether money, materials, supplies, etc., and regardless of the source - go to the project beneficiary. If the beneficiary is not allowed to accept the excess funds or materials, etc., the beneficiary should designate a suitable charity to receive them, or allow the unit to retain them. **The unit must not influence this decision.**

All other terms and conditions of the ***Procedures and Limitations on Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising*** shall apply. See *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* for more information.