

STATEMENT of AMBITIONS and LIFE PURPOSE

ITS HISTORY ~ WHY IT'S IMPORTANT ~ DISPELLING RUMORS and BAD ADVICE

This requirement has been part of the Eagle Scout Rank Application (ESRA) for more than 50 years. It's appeared in various places on the ESRA, but its wording and purpose has remained unchanged.



In preparation for your board of review, prepare and attach to your Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service.

For more than 20 years, when the Eagle application was 4 – 6 pages, boxes were provided on the ESRA itself for the scout to provide his answers. Here are examples from actual Eagle applications:

DESCRIPTION OF HONORS AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES

Describe any honors you have received in church or synagogue, school, camp, community, or other organization and the opportunities you have had to demonstrate leadership.

The honors that I have received in church are just being president of our Jr. high youth program.

In school, I am currently a member of the 6th grade advisory committee, also a member of the assembly committee, chairman of the school store, and a member of the Jr. High-Y.

I am a patrol leader of the "MOLE PATROL" and have been an assistant P.M. and also ~~scoutmaster~~ quartermaster.

1973 Eagle Scout Rank Application

STATEMENTS OF EAGLE SCOUT AWARD APPLICANT

1. MY LIFE PURPOSE

Briefly describe your ambitions and plans as arrived at through your unit leader (Scoutmaster, Coach, Advisor) conferences. Use additional paper, if necessary.

I wish to help improve the condition of the world through technology. My fellow workers and I can improve human condition through the exploration of space. The direct help and "spin-offs" could greatly benefit humanity.

2. DESCRIPTION OF HONORS AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES

Describe any honors you have received in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organization and the opportunities you have had to demonstrate leadership. Add additional unit leadership positions not stated on front of application.

Pearson Music Award Scholarship
All State Band / Tennessee Honor Band
Tutoring Service CHHS
Patrol Leader
Bugling

1987 Eagle Scout Rank Application

When the ESRA was reduced to two pages, and boxes were removed for the scout to provide this information, people around the country began to create their own requirements. Things like **"I want at least a page and a half, single spaced"**, or **"I want a history of what you've done in Scouting since you joined"**, even **"provide a testimonial on the value of Scouting to you and to America."** While these might be interesting to read, they are not the requirement!

A personal history, a journal of your Scouting experiences, or a testimonial on Scouting's value is NOT a substitute for completing the requirement.

Since introducing the PDF-fillable Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose form five years ago, of the hundreds of scouts who've used it – about 90% of our total Eagles – rarely does a scout fail to provide the correct information. Of the 10% who opt not to use it, half must start over because they simply ignored the requirement, and half of the remainder omit one or more items and must revise their statement.

Using the PDF fillable form is your best bet for meeting the requirement – as written – the first time!