



Troop 993
Boy Scouts of America
Mount Vernon, Virginia



Dear Life Scout and Future Eagle (lets be more optimistic):

Among the materials you will receive as you approach Eagle, I hope that you will read this FIRST. As the Troop Life to Eagle Coordinator, I have some insight into how you are feeling right now and how you can complete Eagle. This letter and the information I will pass onto you is IN ADDITION to the letters from the National and the Council offices.

I hope that you take this advice for what it is...advice from someone Who is trying to help, and NOT as an attempt to "tell you what to do" or to "do everything my way". You have gone this far using your mind, spirit, and the resources of our community and Troop. You can make it the rest of the way on the Eagle trail with these resources. This information is designed to help guide you down the route YOU DECIDE to travel.

The first thing I would recommend is that you gather all of the Eagle materials: this letter plus the Eagle project workbook, Colonial District Life to Eagle guidelines, The Eagle application and everything else you've received, and place them in one of those binders with pockets inside and the three-hole "clips". All workbook, guideline and application are available on the troop website Eagle page http://www.bsatroop993.org/Eagle_Page.htm Treat this like a term paper: everything in it must be clear, clean and understandable. Neatly print or type entries when possible. But don't go out of your way in getting everything printed and typed up...remember, that this workbook and everything in it is YOURS. You need to be able to erase and add entries as time passes. Make sure that you have plenty of regular paper in this workbook so from time to time you can make notes, illustrations, or even doodles.

After you have collected the Eagle materials, read them. Also read the requirements for Eagle in your Boy Scout Handbook. If you have any questions, bring them to me and I will get you the answers or point you in the right direction.

In addition to the merit badges, you must do a service project for Eagle. You may work on this project any time after you pass your Life Scout Board of Review. Before, after, or while you are finishing the merit badges. Just remember, all work for Eagle HAS TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOUR 18th BIRTHDAY.

For your project, seek those in our Troop whom YOU think would help YOUR project. Non-scouts may work on your project as well, so remember your friends from school and others. Ask them early, because you will need them many times during the process. You know how YOU

are, with many other activities to do outside of Scouting. Imagine the reaction someone has when you ask him or her to help you with the planning or the actual project at the last minute?

Now, sit down and think about what you can do for your Eagle Project. This is the hardest requirement for many Scouts. Be creative but you DON'T have to do something "spectacular". In the Council's packet is a listing of Eagle Project ideas and you can get more from me.

Read the Alexandria Gazette and/or another local paper for about a week or so and track down what main issues affect your community. Ask the leaders of your church, school, and your parents. Talk to the people you listed as potential helpers after you put together your notebook. Don't settle for a routine labor job like "picking up trash around the school" or "recycling cans found around town". Those are great Star and Life projects. The Eagle project should be something that requires significant time to plan, organize, direct, execute and evaluate. It should be your BEST EFFORT. That's how the local Council and the National Court of Honor looks at the project. And that's how you should look at the project, too.

After you decide on a project, you MUST have it approved. Discuss it with me first. If I approve the idea, write it up in the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook provided by the Troop. Have me review the plan. If I approve it, I will sign the workbook. If there are suggestions about how to improve the plan, consider adding them before you go to the troop committee.

Present your project plans to the troop committee and get their approval. Again, if ideas are presented to improve your project consider adding them to the plan. Last you need to get the approval of the District Advancement chairman (I will help you with this), Set up an appointment to see him. Remember, this is no longer "kid stuff". You have to make appointments, be there on time and KEEP THEM. You can do a lot of it over the phone, but remember that part of this process is that YOU do it -- not the Scoutmaster or other Troop Leader, nor your Mom, Dad, or a friend. You do it!

At this meeting, the Advancement chairman is NOT looking to see if you know EVERYTHING about getting the project done. He is looking at the premise of the project and if it violates the BSA's policies on Eagle projects. Those guidelines are in the "Life to Eagle" workbook in your folder. If you follow those guidelines when coming up with a project idea, you stand a better chance of getting it approved the first time. Don't feel bad about NOT getting it approved the first time. The Advancement chairman is NOT in the position of "liking or not liking" you as an Eagle candidate. He or she, IS in the position of seeing that your project approval proceeds WITH NO COMPLICATIONS by the BSA.

After you get approval from the District Advancement Chairman, you may begin work on your Eagle Scout Service Project. Other than planning, do not start work on your project until you have this approval.

Once you have completed your project, write it up. Finish any merit badges you still need to complete. Then check and be sure you have at least six months in one or more of the troop leadership positions that are APPROVED FOR EAGLE (see your Scout Handbook). Actually,

maybe you should check your leadership position status RIGHT AFTER YOU FINISH READING THIS LETTER.

After you complete the project and all the merit badges, collect all your records. This should be easy since everything should be in your notebook! Complete the blue Eagle Scout application form. Enter all dates carefully, being sure they are correct. If dates are not correct, this may cause delays when you submit your application. The National office CHECKS DATES CAREFULLY. INCONSISTENCIES WILL CAUSE THEM TO RETURN THE APPLICATION WITHOUT APPROVAL. Rank advancement dates are the dates of your boards of review. Check with the Troop Advancement Chairperson or ask for a copy of your Scout records. Then check and be sure these dates are the same dates that were entered on the Troop Advancement sheets. The troop advancement sheets are used by the Council office to verify your advancement. If there are any discrepancies, Please let me know as soon as you find them. I can then give you advice on how to clear these up.

References are required on the Eagle Scout Application. If you provide me with their names, I will request them to provide you with a letter of recommendation that will make it easier for the Eagle Scout Board members to check your references.

Once the paper work is complete, turn it into the council office. After the Council verifies the information on the application, an Eagle Scout Board of Review is scheduled. This is the last step in becoming an Eagle Scout. To insure National standards are met, a Council or District representative sits in on this board of review.

Keep this in mind...the more you use the resources, the shorter the time it will take before you receive your Eagle!!

At any time if you have questions, please come to me. I will NOT DO THE WORK YOU NEED TO DO FOR YOU. I, AM, however, FULL OF ADVICE AND I AM VERY WILLING TO GIVE IT!

Yours in Scouting,

John S. Leckner
Scoutmaster
Troop 993