

EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW

QUESTIONS

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

This suggested list of questions is an idea sparkler. It is not intended that you use these questions in total or in the order listed.

4. What do you do to make your home a happy place to live?
5. Who do you feel is responsible for your being before us today?
6. Was the personal interview with your Scoutmaster of help to you?
15. What does "A Scout is Reverent" mean to you?
16. What do you consider is your greatest weakness?
17. What are you doing to overcome this weakness?
18. What do you consider your greatest strength?
19. Are you able to share this strength?
20. Are you able to analyze your own shortcomings?
21. What do you plan for your future after your schooling and Scouting days are over?
22. Suppose you had a very good friend on drugs and you just found out about it. What would you do to help him?
23. If you make Eagle, you will get your picture in the paper. How will you respond to the different types of remarks and comments you will receive?
24. What do you consider the purpose of the merit badge program?
25. What badge interested you the most and why?
26. Which badge was the hardest for you to earn and why?
27. Which badges were you least interested in?
28. What further responsibilities does the earning of 21 merit badges, especially the required badges, place upon you as a citizen?
29. Why do you want to be an Eagle Scout?
30. Why did you become a Scout?
31. What do your friends say about you being a Boy Scout?
32. Not counting your troop camping trips, what is the best thing you have done as a Scout?

33. What does the Scout "Good Turn" mean to you?
34. Do you feel that becoming an Eagle Scout puts any obligation upon your future?
35. What is an Eagle Scout's duty to his country?
36. What place in society should an Eagle Scout assume after you are finished with school and are out of Scouting?
37. As an adult, what position should you, as an Eagle, assume in the community?
38. Have you been carrying any additional responsibilities in your troop since becoming a Life Scout?
39. What do you do personally to make your troop a better troop?
40. What do you do to help younger Scouts along the trail?
41. Have you noticed any weaknesses in any of the patrols in your troop?
42. Have you any suggestions that might help those patrols?
43. What do you think makes your troop operate so well?
44. If you could change the merit badge program, what would you do to make it better?
45. What do you do to help younger Scouts get started on the merit badges?
46. Do you intend to earn any Eagle Palms?
48. Have any of your merit badges sparked an interest that might lead you into a career in life?
49. How do you pass on the skills you have learned in the merit badge program to help the younger boy in the troop?
50. Do you feel that the personal growth agreement plan has helped you to be able to set goals, and then try to reach those goals?
51. What type of books-do you like to read? Can you give the name or title of the last book you have read?
52. How do you keep yourself "physically strong?" "Mentally alert?"
53. Do you think that you will be able to remember the obligation of a Scout "to help others at all times" as you grow into an adult? What will help you remember this fundamental?
54. Do you feel that becoming an Eagle will change you in any way?
55. In the different Scouting leadership positions you have held, do you feel that you did your best at all times to make that job operate the best you could?
56. Do you think your teachers will expect more of you as an Eagle?
57. Did you have any difficulty planning a service project? How did you choose your project?
58. What help did you have to have in order to complete your project? Who?
59. Did your service project benefit any specific group? How?
60. Will the benefit last a long time or was it a temporary thing?
61. Do you have any suggestions for other Eagle candidates for service projects?

Eagle Board of Review Guidelines

The Board of Review for an Eagle candidate is composed of at least three but not more than six members. These members do not have to be registered in Scouting, but they must have an understanding of the importance and purpose of the Eagle Board of Review. One member serves as Chairman. Unit leaders, assistant unit leaders, relatives or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review. At least one District advancement representative must be a member of the Eagle Board of Review if the review is conducted at a unit level. A Scout may request a District Board of Review which will consist of members of the District Advancement Committee and/or District members who have an understanding of the importance of the Eagle Board of Review. In no case should a relative or guardian of the candidate attend the review, either as a participant or observer. The contents of the Board of Review are confidential and the proceedings are not to be disclosed to any person who is not a member of the Board of Review.

The Board members need to convene prior to interviewing the candidate (15 to 30 minutes.) The purpose of meeting before the actual interview is to:

1. Review the prospective Eagle Scout's application.
2. Read his reference letters and other important documents.
3. Become familiar with his service project by assessing his final report and any available pictures.
4. Review these guidelines to help formulate pertinent questions.

During this initial meeting, the Chairman makes sure everyone is introduced to one another, sees that everyone has an opportunity to review all the paperwork and determines that all understand the goals of this Board, which are:

1. The Board determines that the Eagle project was successfully carried out.
 - a. Did the candidate demonstrate leadership?
 - b. Did he indeed direct the project himself, rather than do all the work himself or allow someone else to direct the project?
 - c. Was the project of value to the institution, school or community group?
 - d. Who from the benefiting group may be contacted to verify the value of the project?
 - e. Did the project follow the plan, or were modifications necessary to complete it - what did the candidate learn from making the modifications?
2. The Board should be assured of the candidate's participation in and understanding of the Scouting program.
3. A thorough discussion of his successes and experiences in Scouting must take place.

As the documents are making the rounds, the Chairman should add any relevant data of which he is aware. It is best if the Chairman has personally viewed the completed project - if that is not possible, a phone call to the benefiting group's representative to discuss the merits of the project will do.

The following guidelines must be kept in mind during the questioning of the project:

1. The review is not an examination; the Board does not test the candidate. However, the Board should not be a "rubber stamp" approval process. Appearance of the candidate before the Eagle Board of Review does not mean automatic attainment of the Eagle Rank.
2. The Board should attempt to determine the Scout's attitude toward and acceptance of Scouting's ideals
3. The Board should make sure that good standards of performance have been met in all phases of his life.
4. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the questioning.
5. Be sure the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school and community.
6. The Scout should be encouraged to talk - don't ask questions answerable with a simple yes or no.

Once the Scout's Eagle Application, service project paperwork, letters of recommendation and these guidelines are reviewed, the Scoutmaster is asked to introduce the candidate to the Board (as a courtesy the Board members should stand). The Scoutmaster can be invited to remain as an observer and may be called upon to clarify a point in question. The candidate is asked to begin the Board by reciting the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The interview process:

1. Ask him questions about his understanding and adherence to the Scout Oath and Scout Law: The Board should make sure that good standards have been met in all phases of the Scout's life. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review, to make sure that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school and community.
 - a. What is the hardest point of the Scout Law for him to live by - why?
 - b. What point of the Scout Law is the most important to him - why?
 - c. What does "Scouting Spirit" mean to him - why?
 - d. What do the various points of the Scout Law mean to him?
 - e. What values has Scouting taught him that he thinks others see in him - at home, in his unit, at school and/or in the community?
 - f. How does he live by the Scout Law and Oath?
 - g. What do the different points of the Scout Oath mean to him?
 - h. What does "duty to God" mean to him?
 - i. What does "duty to Country" mean to him?
 - j. How does he "help others at all times"?
 - k. How does he feel about wearing his uniform in public?
2. Ask him questions about his camping experiences:
 - a. What was his most enjoyable experience in Scouting?
 - b. Conversely, what was his least enjoyable experience?
 - c. How many summer camps has he attended and where?
 - d. What did he enjoy most about his summer camp experiences?

- e. Has he attended any High Adventure camps (Parsons, Silver Marmot, Mountainman or Philmont) - where and what did he enjoy about them - describe the experience.
- f. Ask him about his outdoor experiences in Scouting - campouts, 50 milers, etc.
- g. Ask him what he remembers of the "Outdoor Code".
- h. Ask him if he has staffed any summer camps - what did he learn from the experience and what did he enjoy about the experience.

3. Ask him questions related to his Scouting experience:

- a. What leadership positions has he held?
- b. What were his responsibilities in each position?
- c. What leadership position does he hold now?
- d. Ask him what he would do if a scout refused to comply and/or ignored a valid request he made in the performance of his duties.
- e. Ask him about his troop's discipline policy and where he figures in it in his present leadership position.
- f. Ask him how he might handle "hurry-up" first aid cases.
- g. Ask him other questions related to merit badges he has earned (remember you are not testing him).
- h. Has he earned any merit badges that will help him in his choice of occupation?
- i. What merit badge did he enjoy working on the most - why?
- j. Conversely, which one did he enjoy working on the least - why?
- k. Ask him what changes he might make in his unit.
- l. If he earns his Eagle rank tonight, what does he intend to do to repay Scouting, his unit and its leaders?
- m. Who has been the most influential person in his Scouting career?
- n. Is there anything Scouting did not give him that he feels could be beneficial to the program to help other young men develop?

4. Ask him pertinent questions about his project. The Board should make sure that a good standard of performance has been met.

- a. What group benefited from his project?
- b. How did he find out about the need?
- c. Ask him to walk the Board through the project from beginning to end
 - i. The planning phase
 - ii. The organization of personnel
 - iii. Directing the project to completion
- d. Did he have to contact any city, county or state officials for permits or to find out about ordinances, etc. - did the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge help - how?
- e. Once his project was approved, did he have to modify it - what did he learn from that experience?
- f. Who did he get involved in helping him with his project - scouts, adults from his troop, members of the benefiting organization....?
- g. Did he have any problems directing adults in their work - how did he feel about that?
- h. In what ways does he feel he demonstrated leadership in this project?
- i. Every scout feels his project was "special" - how is his project "special"?
- j. Thirty years from now when someone else asks him what he did for his Eagle project, what will stand out in his mind - how will he answer that question?

5. Ask him about his plans for the future. The Board should attempt to determine the Scout's ideals and goals.

- a. Ask him about his plans for the future - college, Armed Forces, trade school,
- b. How does he feel earning Eagle will help him in those plans?
- c. When he turns 18, he assumes some new responsibilities - What are they? Sign up for the draft, register to vote and responsible for his actions in the eyes of the law.

d. What should an Eagle Scout be expected to do and what responsibilities does he think come with the rank?

e. What does he plan to do in scouting in the immediate and long range future?

These are by no means the only questions that may be asked. They are merely examples to be used as a springboard to other questions and further discussion. Please do not assume that you are to ask only these questions and consider the interview complete. The interview should come to a natural conclusion as each board member runs out of questions.

There is not set length of time for an Eagle Board of Review. However, 15 minutes is probably too short and an hour is probably too long.

After the review, the candidate and his unit leader leave the room while the board members discuss the acceptability of the candidate as an Eagle Scout. Because of the importance of the Eagle Scout Award, the decision of the Board of Review must be unanimous. If the candidate meets the requirements, he is asked to return and is informed that he will receive the Board's recommendation for the Eagle award. Immediately after the Board of Review and after the application has been appropriately signed, the application is turned into the Council Service Center. A photocopy of the application should be attached to an Advancement Form and submitted to the Council Service Center as well.

If the candidate is found unacceptable, he is asked to return and told the reasons for his failure to qualify. A discussion should be held with him as to how he may meet the requirements within a given period. Should the applicant disagree with the decision, the appeal procedures should be explained to him. A follow-up letter must be sent to the Scout confirming the agreements reached on the action(s) necessary for the advancement. If the Scout chooses to appeal, provide the name and address of the person he is to contact.

Sample Questions:

1. What would you suggest adding to the Scout Law (a thirteenth point)? Why?
2. What one point could be removed from the Scout Law? Why?
3. Why is it important to learn how to tie knots, and lash together poles and logs?
4. What is the difference between a "Hollywood hero" and a real hero?
5. Can you give me an example of someone who is a hero to you? (A real person, not a character in a book or movie.)
6. Why do you think that the Family Life merit badge was recently added to the list of required merit badges?
7. What is the role of the Senior Patrol Leader at a troop meeting (campout, summer camp)?
8. If you could change one thing to improve Scouting, what would you change?
9. What do you believe our society expects from an Eagle Scout?
10. The charge to the Eagle requires that you give back to Scouting more than Scouting has given to you. How do you propose to do that?
11. As an Eagle Scout, what can you personally do to improve your unit?
12. What will you be doing in your unit, after receiving your Eagle Rank?
13. Tell us how you selected your Eagle Service Project.
14. From your Eagle Service Project, what did you learn about managing or leading people? What are the qualities of a good leader?
15. What part of your Eagle Service Project was the most challenging? Why?
16. If you were to manage another project similar to your Eagle Service Project, what would you do differently to make the project better or easier?
17. Tell us about your family (parents, siblings, etc.). How do you help out at home?
18. What do you think is the single biggest issue facing Scouting in the future?
19. How do your friends outside of Scouting react when they learn that you are a Boy Scout? How do you think they will react when they learn that you have become an Eagle Scout?
20. Why do you think that belief in God (a supreme being) is part of the Scouting requirements?
21. How do you know when a Scout is "active" in his unit?
22. You have been in Scouting for many years, sum up all of those experiences in one word. Why?
23. What one thing have you gained from your Scoutmaster's conferences over the years?
24. How does an Eagle Scout continue to show Scout Spirit?
25. If the Scout is a member of the Order of the Arrow:

What does OA membership mean to you?

How does OA help Scouting and your unit?

26. Who brought Scouting from England to the United States? [Answer: William D. Boyce]
27. [Traditional last questions] Why should this Board of Review approve your request for the Eagle Rank? or Why should you be an Eagle Scout?

Mechanics of a Board of Review for Eagle Rank

The mechanics of a Board of Review for Eagle are similar to all other Boards of Review, except that a Board of Review for Eagle is more in depth, and might last as long as 45 minutes to an hour. Additionally, the Eagle Scout Rank Application, Letters of Recommendation (minimum of 3) and Eagle Project Notebook must be present and reviewed by the board. Questions about these documents are appropriate, but the letters of recommendation are for the board's use only; any comments or questions about them should not reveal who wrote the letters. The letters are retained by the District Advancement Chairperson, and are never given to the Scout. After the application has been approved by National Eagle Board of Review and returned to the local council (typically 4-6 weeks), the letters of recommendation are destroyed.

A Scout is

Trustworthy - if he's the waterman, does he keep it filled? If he's fireman, does he wonder away? If he was expected to provide a skit, is he ready?

Loyal - does he build the other boys up, or tear them down? Does he press the "hot buttons" of the boy with a temper, or keep others from pressing them?

Helpful - during after meal cleanup does he help out, or leave all the work for the others while he whittles a stick?

Friendly - is he pleasant? But don't penalize the "shy kid."

Courteous - does he treat everyone with dignity?

Kind - when someone's feeling are hurt, how does he react?

Obedient - when his parents come to pick him up at the end of the campout, does he get his act together, or does he stall?

Cheerful - does he sulk when it is his turn to hose down the summer camp latrine?

Thrifty - does he use the propane stove to warm himself on a cold morning, or does he reserve it for cooking?

Brave - does he have the courage of character to do the right thing, even when the folks around him are urging him in the wrong direction. This one is usually best assessed outside of scout activities!

Clean - clean hands, clean mouth?

Reverent - does he practice what he preaches. Is his "Great Sprit" moving his life?

For most scouts, the Eagle Scout board of review is not like any other previous board of review. The Eagle Scout board of review is commonly relaxed and laid back. There is no reason to prove yourself to the board of review members. Most of the board of review members have seen you advance through the ranks and have already seen what you can do.

The biggest question that the board will want answered is, do you understand what it means to be an Eagle Scout and will you be able to handle the responsibility that comes along with being one? There is no right or wrong answer to this question so answer based on what you believe.

There are two things you must make sure you do before you go to the Board of Review. These things are expected of you no matter who is conducting the board of review.

The first and foremost, you must be in full uniform. You must be wearing your official scout shirt, pants, and neckerchief. While it is not always required, it is preferred that you also have scout socks and belt. Being in full uniform shows respect for scouting and shows you are serious about becoming an Eagle Scout.

The second thing you must do before you go to your Eagle Scout Board of Review is make sure you know the scout oath, law, slogan, motto, and outdoor code. One of the first questions the board will ask you will be to recite the scout oath, law, motto and slogan. They might even ask you to explain the meaning of various parts of the scout oath and law. By now you have been in scouting long enough you should know these. However, when under pressure your mind could go blank. It would be helpful to recite the scout oath, law, slogan, motto, and outdoor code to yourself prior to the board of review to make sure they will be fresh in your mind. Many times an Eagle Scout candidate's mind will go blank just as they go into the Board of Review and cannot remember these important elements which form the foundation of scouting.

The biggest thing to remember is to be calm and your board of review will go well. Do not hesitate to take a few seconds to think about the questions before you answer.

If before you go into the Board of Review you ask yourself if you deserve to be an Eagle Scout and you can truthfully say 'yes',s then you too will become a proud Eagle Scout.

- Put some time between your busy day and the Board. Two hours to change and eat calmly would be ideal. At least, plan a rest stop somewhere before the Board. This is your Board, so do not let the schedules of others force you to come from sports practice or other busy commitments if you can help it.
- Spend some time on your uniform in the days before the Board, so you are not rushing at the last minute. Clean it and press it (including your neckerchief). Make sure you have all the correct badges in the right places. Shine your shoes the night before. ***The Scout Uniform includes official shirt and trousers, your Unit neckerchief, belt and socks -- do not come to an Eagle Scout Board of Review in anything less than a full uniform*** . You want the Board to see your commitment to Scouting, and your appearance is the first clear indication of that.
- Pack the paperwork the night before: original Application, Life Purpose paper, Project Report and Workbook, all the correspondence from your project, your Scout Handbook and anything else you may need. If in doubt, ask your Committee Chair or me. If others have some of these things (the Application, for example), call everyone who should be bringing something to remind them. It's your Eagle Board, not theirs.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before.
- Get your blood sugar up. Have a meal before the Board. If you must come straight from school, practice or whatever, pack some fruit or a health bar. Eat it and drink some water at least 20 minutes before the Board.
- Finally, ask yourself why you want to be an Eagle Scout. Do it often in the days before the Board, and let the answers carry your thoughts away. See what they show you about your relationship to the Scout Oath and Law, what is really important in your life and how being an Eagle Scout relates to any or all of that. Have fun with it and be prepared to share what you discover with the Board.

In what year was the first World Jamboree held? [Answer: 1920]

- What is the "Outdoor Code", and what does it mean to you?
- "A Scout is Trustworthy" is the first part of the Scout Laws. What does TRUSTWORTHY mean to you? (you may substitute any one of the laws for this question)
- What is your most memorable experience in Scouting?
- In your opinion, why is the "buddy system" so important in scouting? How have you used the buddy system in your scouting activities?
- What did you enjoy most on your last troop campout? Were there any problems that occurred? How would you have handled the problem (differently)?
- What did you enjoy most about Boy Scout summer camp? Why?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity that the troop does? Why?
- In your opinion, what can be improved at your Troop meetings, and what can you do to help?
- If a Cub Scout (Webelos Scout) were to visit your troop, what would you do to make him feel comfortable?
- The Boy Scout Slogan is "Do a good turn daily". What type of act of kindness do you think really qualifies as a Good Turn?
- What do you consider is Scout Spirit? How have you shown "Scout Spirit" in your daily life since joining Boy Scouts?
- What Leadership position could you best fulfill? Why?
- What are 3 best things you enjoy about Boy Scouting?
- What can you do to help the troop get ready for a campout?
- What merit badge did you enjoy the most earning? Why?
- In your opinion, what was the most important thing you learned while earning the _____ merit badge?
- What advice would you give to a new Patrol leader on how to get the members of his patrol to participate in Scouting activities?
- In your opinion, what is a leader?
- What leadership qualities have you learned and used as you developed your role as a (leadership position the Scout is currently holding)?
- What do you consider the most important part of the Boy Scout Oath?
- Give one way in which you practice the Boy Scout Oath.
- What part of the Scout Law do you find the hardest to observe?
- What are your future goals? how has scouting helped you in achieving those goals?
- How long do you intend to be involved in Scouting?

- What do you think your primary duties as an American citizen are?
- If you found a fellow scout smoking on a campout, what would be your reaction, and what would you do about it?
- What has Scouting given you that makes you feel proud?
- What new thing did you learn from your favorite merit badge?
- What does the American Flag mean to you?
- What does citizenship mean to you?
- What do you think the job of Senior Patrol Leader is? (or any other leadership position)
- What does the Scout uniform mean to you?
- Why do you think it is important for everybody to be in a proper Scout uniform?
- What are some school activities that you can use your scouting resources in?
- How do you think scouting has affected your academic standing in school?
- How could you try to give Scouting back what it gave you?
- How do you see yourself in the Scouting program after you are an adult?
- What are your plans for the rank of Eagle?
- What do you think Eagle Scouts should do after they make the highest rank in Scouting?
- What is your favorite part of a campfire?
- What have you done in Scouting that will help you in the future?
- What are you most proud of that you have accomplished in Scouting?
- Why do you feel that Scouts are ridiculed by their classmates?
- Would you be willing to wear your scout uniform to school? Why?
- Would you rather a Scout teach you how to tie a knot, or an adult? Why?
- Why do you come to troop meetings?
- What kind of question would you ask on a Board of Review for your present rank?
- In your opinion, what is the most important merit badge you have earned, and why?
- Why do you feel you are ready for the next rank?

- **Know what your merit badge patches are**, they will ask you to remove your sash and it will be reviewed.
- Know the **number of hours your project took, have all receipts** and letters or other records of all donations with values.
- Your advisor or Troop official is there to **introduce you and provide you only non-verbal support during the review.**
 - He (She) will be allowed to answer questions only if directly asked; usually the Scout leaves the room if this occurs.
- **No atheist is allowed Eagle status.** If the religious preference on the form is blank you will be questioned about your belief in God.
- The Board of Review is a serious event, **similar to a job interview** or job project presentation. **Stand tall, look them in the eye and speak clearly and at proper volume.**