

# ***GUIDE TO THE LIFE-TO-EAGLE TRAIL***



Dedicated to the Eagle Scouts of Troop 2020, those who have come before you and to their adult leaders & families who invested their time and energy in the growth and development of our youth.



# Eagle

the measure of  
a young man's  
imagination,  
leadership  
& tenacity

*EAGLE PROCESS FOR TROOP 2020*

**Document Revisions**

| <b>Revision</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Details</b>  |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 0               | Feb 2020    | Initial release |
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## **So You Want To Be an Eagle Scout!!**

Congratulations on achieving the rank of Life Scout! You're only one step away from the highest rank Scouting has to offer, Eagle Scout. The requirements for Eagle Scout are easy enough to understand; they are the same kinds of requirements you met for all of your other ranks, but at a more challenging level. This guidebook has been developed to help explain the process of advancing from Life to Eagle.

**Achieving the Eagle rank is solely your responsibility!** Many people will help you along the way, including your Eagle Coach, your advisor, your parents, and your fellow Scouts. You will also get assistance from adults on your district advancement committee, many of whom you have probably not worked with before.

***None of these people can earn the rank for you!*** It is up to you to make sure that you understand the requirements, complete them in a timely manner, and submit the proper paperwork, so that **your** Eagle rank advancement can be completed. Good luck!

## **What You Will Need**

Besides your Scouting skills, spirit, and leadership ability, you will need the following:

**The Boy Scout Handbook:** Your handbook contains requirements for all ranks including Eagle, and it should have a signed record of your advancements from Boy Scout badge through Life rank. Your own advancement pages, properly signed off in your Boy Scout Handbook, are your best record of your advancement. It is your responsibility to make sure these records are complete and up to date.

**Your advancement records:** In addition to your Boy Scout Handbook, you should have kept other personal records, such as signed merit badge cards. Your unit leaders may also have records of your advancements.

**The Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook:** Be sure to get the latest version online at [www.NESA.org](http://www.NESA.org).

**The Eagle Scout Rank Application:** This is now available in Scoutbook and will be auto-filled in with all of your advancement information.

**The Guide to Safe Scouting:** This document represents the official BSA policy about what kinds of activities are allowed and not allowed in Scouting, as well as safety procedures that must be followed. Your project must be conducted in accordance with the Guide to Safe Scouting, also located on the National website, <http://www.scouting.org>.

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### **Eagle Scout Rank Requirements**

In order to advance to the rank of Eagle, before reaching the age of 18, a candidate must complete all requirements of tenure; Scout spirit; merit badges; positions of responsibility; while a Life Scout, plan, develop, and provide leadership to others in a service project; and the Unit Leader conference. The requirements for the Eagle rank are similar in many ways to the requirements for the previous ranks you earned in Scouting. You should have little trouble understanding most of the requirements as they are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook and on the Eagle Scout Rank Application.

### **Upon achieving your Life Scout rank:**

1. Be active in your Troop for at least 6 months
2. Demonstrate your Scout Spirit with a minimum of 5 references
3. Earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges including the 13 Eagle required
4. Serve actively in a leadership position for at least 6 months
5. Plan, develop & give leadership to others in a beneficial Service Project
6. Take part in a Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) Conference
7. Successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review

### **Age Requirements**

**It is imperative that all requirements for the Eagle Scout rank, except the board of review, be completed prior to the candidate's 18th birthday.**

When all requirements, except the board of review for the rank of Eagle, including the leadership service project, have been completed, the Eagle Scout Rank Application must be completed and sent to the council service center promptly.

[Scouts with disabilities](#) may be eligible for a waiver of age. This may be applied for through the Council Advancement Committee. A Scout with a council documented permanent physical/mental disability may select an alternate merit badge in lieu of a required merit badge if his disabling condition prohibits the Scout from completing the necessary requirements of a particular required merit badge. This substitute should provide a "similar learning experience."

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### **Requirement 1: Be active in your Troop for at least 6 months**

This requirement means exactly what it says, actively participating in Troop meetings, service projects & fund raising activities, attending Troop campouts and providing leadership and guidance to the Troop.

### **Requirement 2: Demonstrate your Scout Spirit**

Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your daily life. List the names of 5 individuals (people not organizations) who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf. You may want to familiarize those outside of Scouting with the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

1. Parents/Guardians
2. Religious (List your parent(s) if you have no religious references)
3. Educational
4. Two other references
5. Employer (If employed, use your employer as a sixth reference)

### **Requirement 3: Earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges**

Earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges including the 13 Eagle required Merit Badges listed in the table below during your Scouting career.

|    | <b>EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGE</b>       | <b>DATE EARNED</b> |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | Camping                                 |                    |
| 2  | Citizenship in Community                |                    |
| 3  | Citizenship in Nation                   |                    |
| 4  | Citizenship in World                    |                    |
| 5  | Communication                           |                    |
| 6  | Cooking                                 |                    |
| 7  | Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving    |                    |
| 8  | Environmental Science or Sustainability |                    |
| 9  | Family Life                             |                    |
| 10 | First Aid                               |                    |
| 11 | Personal Fitness                        |                    |
| 12 | Personal Management                     |                    |
| 13 | Swimming or Hiking or Cycling           |                    |

### **Requirement 4: Serve Actively in a Leadership Role**

While a Life Scout, serve actively in your unit for a period of six months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility:

|                            |                              |                      |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Patrol Leader              | Scribe                       | Chaplain Aide        |
| Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) | Librarian                    | Instructor           |
| Assistant SPL              | Historian                    | Webmaster            |
| Troop Guide                | Quartermaster                | Outdoor Ethics Guide |
| OA Troop Representative    | Junior Assistant Scoutmaster |                      |
| Den Chief                  | Scribe                       |                      |

List only those leadership positions served after your Life board of review date and be sure to include your start and end dates on your Eagle Scout application.

## **Requirement 5: Eagle Scout Service Project**

In most of your previous rank advancements, you were required to participate in some type of service to the community. However, to achieve the Eagle rank you must do more than participate, you must plan and lead a project yourself. We would like to make clear that the emphasis is not on you doing the work yourself; rather it is for you to plan, develop and give leadership to others. You must plan the work, organize the personnel needed and **direct** the project to completion. This will be one of the most challenging and time-consuming parts of your advancement to Eagle.

While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. (The project must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) **The project idea must be approved by the benefiting organization, your unit leader, your unit committee AND your district committee, before you start.** You must use the latest version of the [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#), in meeting this requirement.

## **The Purpose of the Project**

The Eagle Scout leadership service project differs from the service requirements of other ranks in an important way: You must plan, develop, and lead the entire project. In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, you must demonstrate leadership, and your Eagle project is one of the important ways you do that. The project will also provide an opportunity for you to use many of the skills you have learned while earning merit badges, such as Communication, Citizenship in the Community and Personal Management.





## **The Steps of an Eagle Scout Project**

- 1 Select a project idea.
- 2 Discuss the project idea with your unit leader/Eagle Coach.
- 3 Discuss the project with the representative of the benefiting organization.
- 4 Develop a detailed plan for your project, using the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.
- 5 Sign your plan**
- 6 Have your plan approved by the representative of the benefiting organization, your unit leader and a unit committee representative, and secure their signatures in the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. It is important that the benefiting organization understand that this proposal is a concept only and cannot be carried out until it has been approved by the District Advancement Committee.
- 7 Submit your plan to the district advancement committee. You may have to revise your plan and resubmit it if the advancement committee does not approve your project plan as submitted.
- 8 Only after the district advancement committee approves the project plan, and signs it, may you begin any constructive work on your project.**
- 9 Obtain permits, and submit money earning application if necessary.
- 10 Carry out the project.
- 11 Complete the Service Project Workbook It is your responsibility to submit your completed project workbook to your Eagle Board of Review. Obtain signatures for approval of project completion.

## **Tracking Your Hours**

As you come up with a project idea and begin to develop your Eagle project, you should keep good notes of everything that happens and record the time you spend on any activity related to your project. When you have completed your project, and you complete your project workbook, you will need to include the hours you spent during the planning stage, along with the hours your workers spent in carrying out your project.

## **Changing Your Eagle Project**

You are expected to carry out the project that was approved by the district advancement committee. You may need to make some changes when you carry out the project, due to unexpected circumstances. However, if you need to change the nature of the project (e.g., what you are doing, who you are doing it for) you must submit your new project proposal to the district advancement committee for approval. Completing a project that differs substantially from what you proposed puts you at risk of not passing your board of review. When in doubt, contact your district advancement chairman to determine whether you need to resubmit your changed project for approval.



## **The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook**

The [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#) is essential to completing your Eagle project. You must use the latest, official workbook found online at [www.NESA.org](http://www.NESA.org).

The workbook is divided into three major sections. The first section is for writing your “Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal”, which must be approved by your district advancement committee before you begin work on your project. The second section, “Eagle Scout Service Project Final Plan” is for documenting the detailed project plan for execution of the project. The third section is the “Eagle Scout Service Project Report”, to document completion of the project.

The completed workbook will be presented at your Eagle Scout Board of Review. It is an important document – without it you cannot earn your Eagle rank. The Eagle Scout Board of Review will make sure that you did the project that was approved by your District, as well as determining if you did indeed plan the work, organize the personnel needed and **directed** the project to completion.

**If you did not do the project as approved or did not show leadership in completion of the project – the board can decide that you did not meet the requirement, fail you at the board and, if under 18, request that you do another project.**

## **Submitting Your Project Proposal for District Approval**

After the original copy of your project plan is completed and signed, you should make two copies, one for yourself and one for your Troop’s Advancement Coordinator to submit for District approval.

## **Carrying Out Your Project**

As you carry out your Eagle project, you should keep good notes of everything that happens and record the time spent by every individual who works on your project. The section entitled “Service Project Report” is where you should report on what actually happened during the project. In this section, the more detail you include about how your project was done, the better. The Eagle Scout board of review must approve your completed project. If you do a good job of reporting on the project in your workbook, it will be easier for board members to understand what happened during your project, and you’ll have to spend less time during your board of review answering questions about information you may have left out.

There are specific pieces of information required in this section of the workbook. You must complete the Materials Required to Complete the Project table to reflect the actual materials used. You must list your own hours separately from others. List the hours you spent planning the project, the hours you spent carrying out the project, and the total hours you spent on the project. List every person who worked on your project, and the number of hours they worked. In this listing, you should keep adults and family members separate from Scouts and other youth. Discuss any changes from your original plan and include “after” photographs, if appropriate.

## **The Completed Workbook**

After you have completed the final section of the workbook, you should sign the workbook and get approval signatures from your unit leader and the representative of the benefiting organization who originally authorized the project. You should ask your unit leaders to review your workbook. Again, it is your responsibility to get the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, properly filled out, and submitted to your Eagle Board of Review.

## **Requirement 6: Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) Conference**

Just like you did for all of your previous rank advancements, you will go through a Scoutmaster Conference to ensure your Unit Leader feels you are prepared and ready to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout.

## **The Eagle Scout Rank Application**

The current [Eagle Scout Rank Application](#) is now in Scoutbook and is auto-filled in with all of your advancement information. Read through the application carefully so you know what information is required and that everything appears correct and the application is complete. The application should be signed by you and your unit leader in the proper places. The unit committee reviews and approves the record of the Eagle candidate before the application is submitted to Council. The Eagle application is signed AFTER ALL requirements are COMPLETE.

District will review the following documents.

- 1 – Eagle Application
- 2 – Statement of Ambitions and Accomplishments
- 3 – Member unit advancement summary
- 4 – Eagle project plan
- 5 – Eagle project report

## **References / Verification of the Application by the Council**

When the completed application is received at the Council, its contents will be verified. Council may make contact with each of the persons listed as a reference on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The candidate should have contacted those individuals listed as references before including their names on the application. The candidates should not be involved personally in transmitting any correspondence between persons listed as references.

## **Statement of Ambitions and Accomplishments**

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, during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service.

## **Requirement 7: The Eagle Scout Board of Review**

The Eagle Scout board of review is the final requirement before you are eligible for recommendation for receipt of the rank of Eagle. The board of review is scheduled through your district advancement committee.

### **Steps to Eagle Scout Board of Review**

1. Review by district includes corrections and recommendations
2. After Eagle Application is correct, sent to Council for certification
3. References are requested
4. Board is scheduled

### **Selecting Members of the Board of Review**

The board of review for an Eagle candidate is composed of at least three but not more than six members. The Scout cannot select the board or review members. One member serves as chairman. Parents, relatives, or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's board of review. The board of review members should convene at least 30 minutes before the candidate appears in order to review the application, reference checks, and leadership service project report. At least one district or council advancement representative must be a member of the Eagle board of review. Board of review members must be 21 years of age or older. They are not required to be registered in Scouting, but they must have an understanding of the importance and purpose of the Eagle board of review.

### **What to Bring and What to Wear**

In preparation for your board of review, **make sure that you bring your Original complete Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. Additionally, the original signed statement of ambition and life purpose, your leadership positions, honors and awards, as stated in Requirement 6 of the Eagle Scout Rank Application.** You might also want to bring your Boy Scout Handbook, so it can be signed by the board of review members.

You must wear your Class A uniform, and be neat in appearance. All appropriate badges should be sewn on properly. You should wear your merit badge sash properly. The OA sash should not be worn at a board of review.

### **Preparing for Your Board of Review**

Before coming to your Eagle Scout board of review, remember the Scout Motto – “Be Prepared.” You should prepare for your board of review by thinking back over your Scouting career. No two boards of review are exactly alike, so it is impossible to anticipate the exact questions you will be asked. If you spend some time thinking about your Scouting experiences, including your advancements, outdoor activities, ways you demonstrated leadership, patrol and troop positions you held and what you accomplished, service to the community, religious activities, and anything else you have learned, you should be able to handle any question that you will be asked. The board

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wants to hear about you and your Scouting career; they are not there to ask you questions that will put you on the spot or trick you.

You should also review your completed Eagle Service Project workbook carefully. The board of review is when your completed project gets its final approval. You should be familiar with every aspect of your project and be prepared to answer questions about it. There are no set of questions that an Eagle candidate should be asked. However, the board should be assured of the candidate's participation in the program. This is the highest award that a Scout may achieve and, consequently, a thorough discussion of his successes and experiences in Scouting should be considered.

### **What Every Scout Should Know:**

#### **Scout Oath:**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

#### **Scout Law:**

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

#### **Scout Motto:**

Be Prepared.

#### **Scout Slogan:**

Do a good turn daily.

#### **Outdoor Code:**

As an American, I will do my best to –  
Be clean in my outdoor manners,  
Be careful with fire,  
Be considerate in the outdoors, and  
Be conservation-minded.

**The Eagle Board's decision MUST BE UNANIMOUS**

## **The Eagle Board of Review from the reviewer's perspective**

The Board of Review for the Eagle Rank is different from the other Boards of Review in which the Scout has participated. The members of the Board of Review are not all from his Troop Committee. Introductions are essential, and a few "break in" questions may be appropriate. At this point, the goal is to understand the Scout's full Scouting experience, and how others can have similar meaningful Scouting experiences. Scouting principles and goals should be central to the Scout's life; look for evidence of this. Although this is the final rank, this is not the end of the Scouting trail; "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle". Explore how this Eagle Scout will continue with Scouting activities, and continued service to his home, church, and community. The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 30 - 50 minutes.

### **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.
  - What is the hardest point of the Scout Law for him to live by - why?
  - What point of the Scout Law is the most important to him - why?
  - What does "Scouting Spirit" mean to him - why?
  - What do the various points of the Scout Law mean to him?
  - 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?
  - How does he live by the Scout Law and Oath?
  - What do the different points of the Scout Oath mean to him?
  - What does "duty to God" mean to him?
  - What does "duty to Country" mean to him?
  - How does he "help others at all times"?
  - How does he feel about wearing his uniform in public?
2. Ask him questions about his camping experiences:
  - What was his most enjoyable experience in Scouting?
  - Conversely, what was his least enjoyable experience?
  - How many summer camps has he attended and where?
  - What did he enjoy most about his summer camp experiences?
  - Has he attended any High Adventure camps (Philmont, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier, Summit Bechtel) - where and what did he enjoy about them - describe the experience.
  - Ask him about his outdoor experiences in Scouting - campouts, 50 milers, etc.
  - Ask him what he remembers of the "Outdoor Code".
  - 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:
  - What leadership positions has he held?
  - What were his responsibilities in each position?

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- What leadership position does he hold now?
  - 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.
  - Ask him about his troop's discipline policy and where he figures in it in his present leadership position.
  - Ask him how he might handle "hurry-up" first aid cases.
  - Ask him other questions related to merit badges he has earned (remember you are not testing him).
  - Has he earned any merit badges that will help him in his choice of occupation?
  - What merit badge did he enjoy working on the most - why?
  - Conversely, which one did he enjoy working on the least - why?
  - Ask him what changes he might make in his unit.
  - If he earns his Eagle rank tonight, what does he intend to do to repay Scouting, his unit and its leaders?
  - Who has been the most influential person in his Scouting career?
  - 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.
- What group benefited from his project?
  - How did he find out about the need?
  - Ask him to walk the Board through the project from beginning to end
    - The planning phase
    - The organization of personnel
    - Directing the project to completion
  - 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?
  - Once his project was approved, did he have to modify it - what did he learn from that experience?
  - Who did he get involved in helping him with his project - scouts, adults from his troop, and members of the benefiting organization....?
  - Did he have any problems directing adults in their work - how did he feel about that?
  - In what ways does he feel he demonstrated leadership in this project?
  - Every scout feels his project was "special" - how is his project "special"?
  - 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.
- Ask him about his plans for the future - college, Armed Forces, trade school, ....
  - How does he feel earning Eagle will help him in those plans?
  - 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.
  - What should an Eagle Scout be expected to do and what responsibilities does he think come with the rank?
  - What does he plan to do in scouting in the immediate and long range future?



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### **The Eagle Court of Honor**

The Eagle court of honor should be a special occasion. The Scout and his family will remember it for the rest of their lives. This celebration is usually held separate from a troop court of honor. You should plan the Eagle court of honor as you would any other event that celebrates a major milestone in life. Make it a ceremony worthy of the young man who has achieved Scouting's highest award. The Advancement Committee strongly recommends that an Eagle Court of Honor be held for each boy who obtains the rank of Eagle. This does two things: 1.) The Unit will be publicly challenging the young man to live his life as an Eagle Scout, 2.) The Unit is providing an encouragement to the other youth in the unit to advance.

#### **Court of Honor Ceremony References:**

- Troop 2020 guidebook for planning your Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony  
– Troop 2020 Library or Advancement Coordinator
- “The Eagle Court of Honor Book” – Mark A. Ray



***“Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor in Scouting and one of the most universally recognized symbols of accomplishment, respect and high-moral character; it is something you will proudly carry with you for the rest of your life and beyond.”***



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### **Eagle Palms**

Eagle Palms are bronze, gold and silver awards presented to young men who earn five, 10, 15 or more merit badges beyond the 21 required to become an Eagle Scout. A new Eagle Scout can now instantly receive, alongside his Eagle medal, all Eagle Palms he has earned for merit badges completed before he became an Eagle Scout.

### **The right way to wear a combination of palms**

The Bronze Palm represents the first five merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle. The Gold Palm represents the next five (10 total), and the Silver Palm the third five (15 total).

After that, you'll combine multiple Palms. While qualifying Eagle Scouts can wear multiple Silver Palms, they should never wear more than 1 Bronze or 1 Gold Palm. You'll see why in this handy chart that shows the proper Palm combinations.

| <b>Total Number of Merit Badges</b> | <b>Number of MB's beyond 21</b> | <b>Palm Combination</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 21                                  | 0                               | None                    |
| 26                                  | 5                               | 1 Bronze                |
| 31                                  | 10                              | 1 Gold                  |
| 36                                  | 15                              | 1 Silver                |
| 41                                  | 20                              | 1 Bronze, 1 Silver      |
| 46                                  | 25                              | 1 Gold, 1 Silver        |
| 51                                  | 30                              | 2 Silver                |
| 56                                  | 35                              | 1 Bronze, 2 Silver      |
| 61                                  | 40                              | 1 Gold, 2 Silver        |
| 66                                  | 45                              | 3 Silver                |
| 71                                  | 50                              | 1 Bronze, 3 Silver      |
| 76                                  | 55                              | 1 Gold, 3 Silver        |
| 81                                  | 60                              | 4 Silver                |
| 86                                  | 65                              | 1 Bronze, 4 Silver      |
| 91                                  | 70                              | 1 Gold, 4 Silver        |
| 96                                  | 75                              | 5 Silver                |
| 101                                 | 80                              | 1 Bronze, 5 Silver      |
| 106                                 | 85                              | 1 Gold, 5 Silver        |
| 111                                 | 90                              | 6 Silver                |
| 116                                 | 95                              | 1 Bronze, 6 Silver      |
| 121                                 | 100                             | 1 Gold, 6 Silver        |
| 126                                 | 105                             | 7 Silver                |
| 131                                 | 110                             | 1 Bronze, 7 Silver      |
| 136                                 | 115                             | 1 Gold, 7 Silver        |

As for wearing them, you have three options:

1. On the Eagle Scout square knot, which is worn by adult Scouters.
2. Attached to the ribbon of the Eagle Scout medal, which is worn on special occasions by youth and adults.
3. On the Eagle Scout rank emblem (patch), this is sewn on the youth field uniform.