



Eagle Scout Boards of Review

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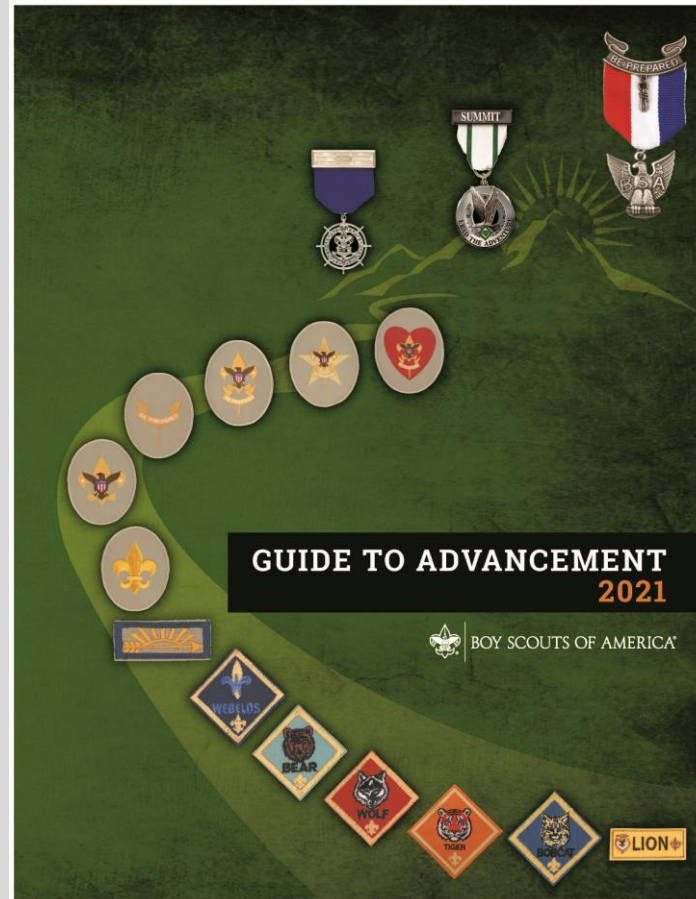


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Where does this information come from?

Chapter 8.0.0.0 “Boards of Review: An Overview For All Ranks”



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What is a Board of Review?

After a Scout has completed the requirements for every rank after Scout rank, the Scout appears before a board of review.

The purpose is to determine the quality of the Scout's experience and decide whether he or she has fulfilled the requirements for the rank.



Board of Review No-No's

8.0.0.3

- ❖ Unit leaders and assistants cannot serve on a board of review for a Scout in their unit.
- ❖ A parent or guardian cannot serve on a board of review for their son or daughter.
- ❖ The candidate, parent, or guardian cannot select members of the board.



How are Eagle Scout Boards of Review *the same* as those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



- ♣ 3 – 6 members on the board
- ♣ All board members must be at least 21 years of age



How do Eagle Scout Boards of Review *differ* from those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



Registered Committee members preferred

- *unregistered adults should be the exception, not the rule
- *Registered adults with YPT training, background check who are familiar with the program are preferred

Members need not be registered adults

At least one District or Council representative must serve on the board



How do Eagle Scout Boards of Review *differ* from those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



Typically lasts 15 – 30 minutes



Typically lasts 30 – 45 minutes



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How do Eagle Scout Boards of Review *differ* from those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



If scout does not pass the Board, a second Board can be held in the future

Only one Board possible*

**We will be discussing Appeals and Boards Under Disputed Circumstances later*



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How do Eagle Scout Boards of Review *differ* from those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



Can take place as soon as the Scout has completed the requirements

Must not take place until Council has *verified* the Eagle Scout Rank Application



How do Eagle Scout Boards of Review *differ* from those for Tenderfoot through Life Rank?



Can take place at summer camp or unit's normal meeting place



Usually occurs in a more formal location



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ❖ Originally published in the [November-December 2018 issue](#) of “Advancement News,” an official publication from the BSA’s National Advancement Program Team.



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ❖ There are some who believe the board of review is like a job interview. Nothing could be further from the truth.
- ❖ The Scout has already “earned the position” of Eagle Scout by completing the requirements. He or she is not interviewing for the position.



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ❖ Expecting the Scout to appear in “business attire,” grilling them on their qualifications, asking inappropriate questions intended to cause stress and anxiety may all seem justified as making the Scout better prepared for experience in the “real world.” However...



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ✦ ...the Scout is already in the “real world” of Scouting. The board of review is not about preparing the Scout for something but rather about celebrating his or her accomplishments.



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ❖ Other youth leaders and adults who previously reviewed the Scout determined that the requirements were met when they signed off on the requirement, or merit badge, etc. It is not up to the board to decide whether the standards used by those leaders were or were not sufficient.



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ♣ By the time Scouts have reached the Eagle Scout Board of Review, they have already demonstrated their knowledge and skills, many times over. This candidate is—for all intents and purposes—an Eagle Scout when arriving at the board of review.



What to expect for an Eagle Scout Board of Review

- ✦ Only in the most egregious cases where it was clear that the Scout could not possibly have properly completed a requirement would the board be warranted in determining that the Scout should not be advanced.



Board of Review Decisions

8.0.1.4-8.0.1.5

- ♣ Unanimous approval is required to advance.
- ♣ If no unanimous approval:
 - Do not disclose specifics to the Scout
 - Only discuss areas requiring improvement
 - The board of review may be adjourned and reconvened at a later date



Appealing a Decision

[other than the Eagle Scout Rank]

8.0.4.0

- ❖ Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, and Eagle Palms are not appealable
 - ❖ A second board can be held in the future
- ❖ Only Star and Life rank can be appealed to the local Council
- ❖ The scout or the scout's parent or guardian notifies the local council



Appealing an Eagle Scout Rank Decision

8.0.3.0

- ❖ If the board of review does not approve the candidate, the Scout may appeal to the Local Council
- ❖ If the Local Council does not approve the candidate, the Scout may then appeal to the National Council



Eagle Scout Board of Review After 18th Birthday

8.0.3.1

- ❖ May occur, without special approval, up to 24 months after a Scout's 18th birthday [2021 GTA]
- ❖ Beyond 24 months, the candidate, the candidate's parent or guardian, the unit leader, or a unit committee member must submit a Belated Rank Application



True or False?

Must the unit leader (Scoutmaster) conference be the last step before a board of review?



True or False?

Must the unit leader (Scoutmaster) conference be the last step before a board of review?

False. While it makes sense to hold one after other requirements for a rank are met, it is not required. (GTA, 4.2.3.5)



True or False?

The scout must be currently registered to sit before an Eagle Scout Board of Review.



True or False?

The scout must be currently registered to sit before an Eagle Scout Board of Review.

False. Scouts must be registered to work on and fulfill rank and badge requirements. The Board of Review may be held when the scout has "aged out" after his or her 18th birthday.



True or False?

It's not appropriate to hold “mock” Boards of Review.



True or False?

It is *not* appropriate to hold “mock” Boards of Review.

True. BSA discourages mock boards of review. We want unrehearsed spontaneous answers revealing character, citizenship & personal fitness.



True or False?

Youth observers are permitted in boards of review.



True or False?

Youth observers are permitted in boards of review.

False. Youth observers are not permitted in boards of review.



True or False?

It is permissible to use video conferencing for a board of review.



True or False?

It is permissible to use video conferencing for a board of review.

True. Boards of review for any rank are meant to be face-to-face, personal experiences. From time to time, however, due to communicable disease, or as Scouts go off to college or the military, or live in very remote locations, for example, it may be difficult to hold in-person boards of review. In those rare situations where it is unreasonable to expect a Scout to travel long distances, or to wait several months, it is permissible to use videoconferencing. [GTA, 8.0.1.6]



If such boards of review are held, however, they must be conducted according to the following requirements: *(fine print intentional)*

[2021 GTA, 8.0.1.6]

1. It is a local council decision to allow videoconference Eagle Scout boards of review. Videoconference boards of review may be held for other ranks without local council approval, but they still must comply with the following requirements.
2. All equipment, including the cameras, lighting, microphones, software, and Internet connection, should be tested ahead of time to provide the best audiovisual experience possible.
3. All members of the board of review must be visible to the Scout, and any observers with the Scout must be visible to the members of the board of review. No one within hearing range on either side shall be off camera. It is important to consider your technical capabilities when planning how many board of review members to involve. Observers should be minimized for any board of review, and this applies especially to videoconference reviews. Their presence can change the discussion dynamics.
4. For Scouts under the age of 18, care must be taken to ensure compliance with the *Guide to Safe Scouting* (www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01).
5. **Videoconference boards of review must not be recorded.**



Additional Resources

- Go to scouting.org/advancement for the Guide to Advancement 2021
- Videocasts at scouting.org/advancement
 - “Advancement Education Presentations”
 - 1) Boards of Review (15 min.)
 - 2) Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances (6 min.)
 - 3) Boards of Review Appeals (4 min.)
 - 4) The Eagle Scout Application Process (8 min.)
 - 5) Eagle Scout Boards of Review (4 min.)





Eagle Scout Boards of Review

Questions?
Feedback?

Download a copy of this presentation
(and all PTC presentations)

www.seattlebsa.org/ptc

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