

The slide features a collection of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) awards and symbols. At the top left, there are several circular and oval-shaped medals, including the Scoutmaster's Key, the Scoutmaster's Award, and the Scoutmaster's Medal. To the right of these is the BSA Merit Award, which is a ribbon with a star and the words "MERIT AWARD" and "B.S.A.". Further right is a photograph of a bald eagle's head. Below the awards, the title "Trail to Eagle" is written in a large, blue, serif font. Underneath the title is a horizontal line. To the right of the line is the BSA fleur-de-lis logo. Below the line, the text "Requirements and Helpful Hints" is written in a large, black, serif font. Underneath this text is the text "Prepared by" followed by "Goose Creek District Advancement Committee", "National Capital Area Council", and "Boy Scouts of America". At the bottom left is the Goose Creek District logo, which features a fleur-de-lis and the text "Goose Creek District" and "National Capital Area Council". At the bottom right is the National Capital Area Council logo, which features a fleur-de-lis and the text "National Capital Area Council" and "Boy Scouts of America".

# Trail to Eagle

## Requirements and Helpful Hints

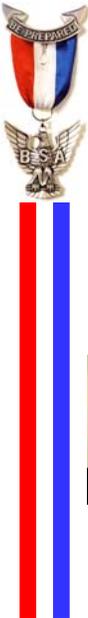
Prepared by  
Goose Creek District Advancement Committee  
National Capital Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America



[Sound plays automatically until clicked once]

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the Goose Creek District Advancement Committee. In the next few minutes, I will present some basic information to you regarding the earning of Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

[ click to change slide ]



## Why Become an Eagle?








- Be among a group of famous Americans
  - A U.S. President
  - 33 Astronauts
  - Pulitzer Prize authors
  - Government leaders
  - Business executives
- Being an Eagle Scout identifies you as a LEADER

[ Text reveals automatically, along with each photo individually, stopping on number 6 ]

There are many reasons why you may want to become an Eagle Scout. Among those reasons is that it marks you as a leader of others. You become part of a select group of outstanding Americans. For instance, can you identify these famous Eagle Scouts?

1 – President Gerald Ford

2 – Baseball great Hank Aaron

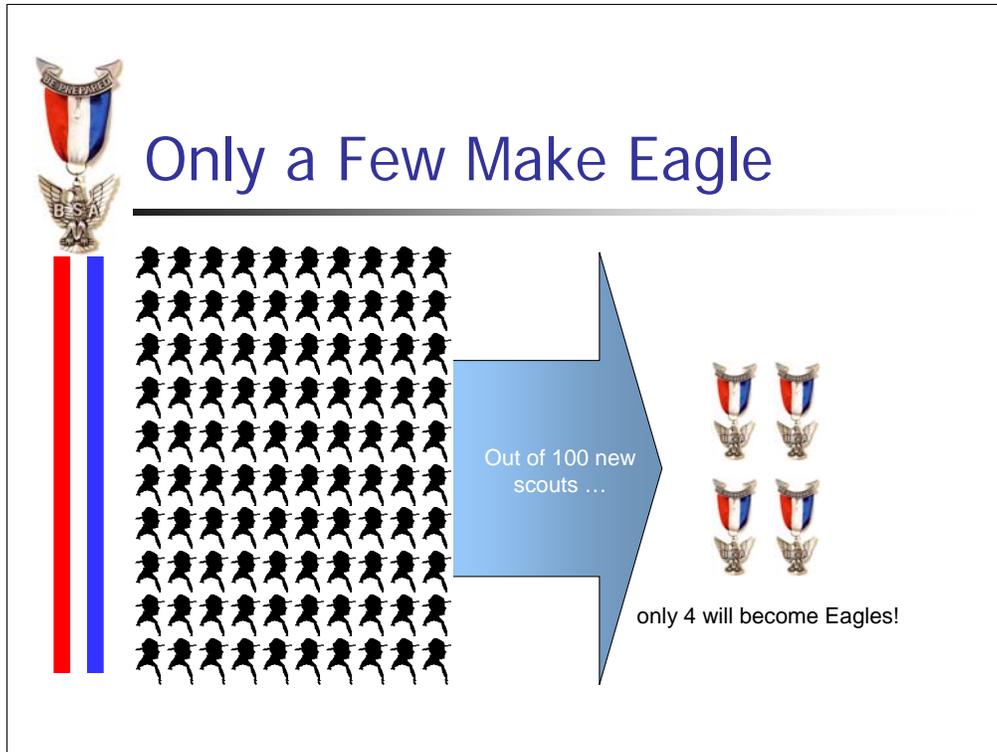
3 – First man on the moon Neil Armstrong

4 – Business leader Ross Perot

5 – Astronaut Ellison Onizuka, from the Challenger crew

6 – Movie producer Steven Spielberg

[ click twice ]

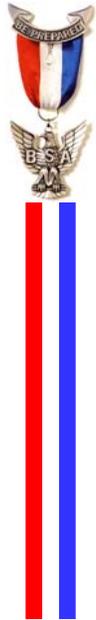


[ graphic reveals automatically ]

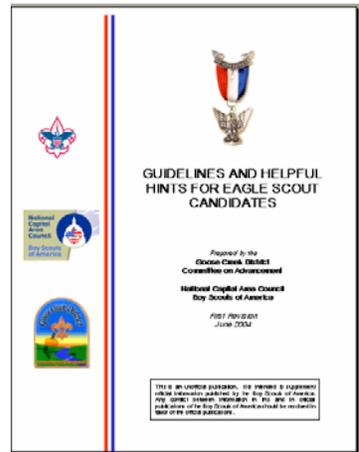
When you joined Scouting at age 11, the probability that you would ever make it to Eagle was 4 in 100. Now that you have reached First Class, Star and Life ranks, the likelihood of you making the rank is even greater – getting more probable with each step on the trail.

But, it is not a guarantee! You still have some work to be done. And you don't have forever to get it done!

[ click to change slide ]



## Get This Guide When You Pass the Life Board of Review



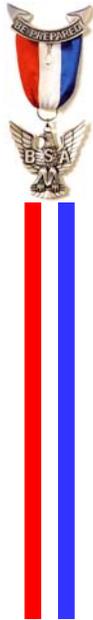
- This is the PRIME reference for this District!
- Download from [www.goosecreekdistrict.org](http://www.goosecreekdistrict.org)

go to District Resources > Life to Eagle

To help you on the Eagle Trail, the Goose Creek District prepared this guide. You can get it from the District web site, or ask your unit advancement chairman.

This guide spells out the methods and steps used in THIS district to process Life Scouts to Eagle Scout rank. It does not differ with national Scout policy, but it does specify local practices.

[ click to change slides ]



## Start Working on Eagle as Soon as You Earn Life Scout

- You can become an Eagle within 6 months of earning Life Scout
  - You must perform in a listed leadership position for 6 months
- You can do your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project anytime after Life Scout
- All requirements must be completed before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday!

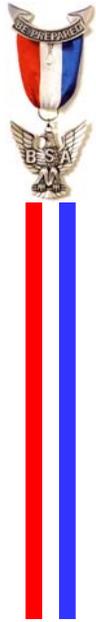
[ Each bullet reveals on a click ]

The day you pass your Life Scout Rank board of review is the first day you can begin work on the specific Eagle Scout Rank requirements. It is possible that you could complete those requirements in just six months.

Don't let anyone tell you differently: you can begin working on your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project anytime after you pass the Life Scout Board of Review.

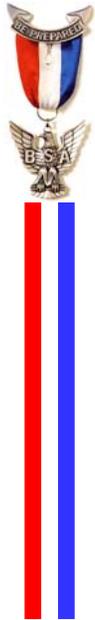
But you **MUST** be done with all those requirements **BEFORE** your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

[ 2 clicks to change slides ]



## Requirements for Earning Eagle Scout Rank

[ pause to let audience read, then click to change slides ]



## 6 Requirements for Eagle

1. Be active in your unit for six months after Life BOR
2. Live by principles of Scout Oath and Law
3. Earn 21 merit badges
4. Serve 6 months in one or more leadership positions since Life BOR
5. Plan, develop, carry out leadership service project
6. Prepare statement of life purpose, ambitions; take part in Scoutmaster conference

[ Each numbered section reveals on a click ] There are six specific requirements for Eagle Scout Rank.

[ click on 1 ] First, you must be active in your unit for six months following your earning Life. This is not straight calendar time. For instance, if your family moves to a different city 4 months after you pass Life, and it takes you 3 more months to join a new troop, you have 2 months to serve in the new unit before you are eligible to be an Eagle Scout – even though it has been 7 months since you passed Life.

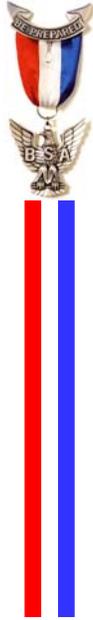
[ click on 2 ] Second, you must live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. This will be reflected by letters of reference required by the Board of Review.

[ click on 3 ] You must earn a total of 21 merit badges.

[ click on 4 ] Next, you must serve 6 months in one or more leadership positions since your Life board of review. These positions are specified in the Boy Scout Handbook, and on the second page of the Eagle Scout Rank application. This could be the same six months you serve for requirement 1. However, it may be a different six months. It may be in smaller segments of time, as long as the total time in the listed positions equals six months.

[ click on 5 ] The BIG requirement is the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. We'll discuss this in depth later in this talk.

[ click on 6 ] The last requirement is multi-faceted. You must prepare a statement of life purpose that includes your ambitions. The essay should also show your leadership outside of Scouting as well as honors you may have received. This essay should be done carefully. Consider it as important as an essay you would submit for a college entrance application. Use good English, check the spelling, and submit a nice presentation. Of course, we on the Advancement Committee will expect more from 17 year old applicants than from younger Scouts. Lastly, you must take part in a final Scoutmaster conference. [ click to change slides ]



## All 6 Requirements MUST Be Completed Before Age 18

- Includes Scoutmaster's Conference!
- If you are over 17 years, 6 months old when you pass Life BOR, you cannot become an Eagle
- If you have less than 90 days before age 18 and you have not begun Personal Management or Family Life MBs (required), you cannot be an Eagle

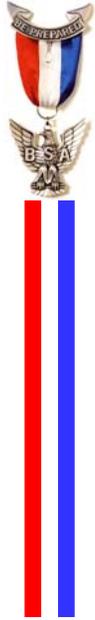
[ each button is revealed by one click each ]

[ Click on Bullet One ] Make sure you understand that ALL six requirements, including the Scoutmaster's Conference, MUST be completed before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You DO NOT have to turn in your application before your birthday. Nor do you have to have a board of review before that day. BUT, all six requirements must be completed and dated prior to your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

[ Click on Bullet Two ] If you are still working on Eagle Scout Rank by your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, then you need to carefully look at your progress and the calendar! For instance, if you are OVER 17 years and 6 months old when you have your Life Board of Review, you cannot pass requirements 1 and 4, both of which require 6 months time to complete.

[ Click on Bullet Three ] There are two merit required merit badges that have minimum times to complete of 90 and 91 days. Don't wait until the last minute to start them!

[ click to change slides ]



## You Need 21 Merit Badges

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- 9 are optional – your choice
- 12 are required (silver borders)

watch the following video ...

[ text will reveal automatically ]

You all are aware you need 21 merit badges to be an Eagle Scout. Of this total, you can choose any for 9 optional badges, but 12 merit badges are required. Let's watch the following video about required merit badges.

[ click to change slides ]

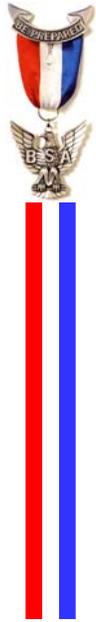


[ video will start automatically ] [ BSA AV-08V019, “The Trail to Eagle”, embedded in PowerPoint presentation; length 3:16 minutes ]

[ Before moving ahead after video ends: ]

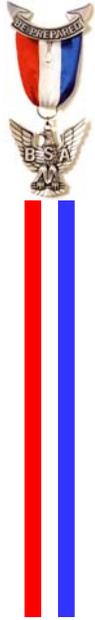
How many silver bordered merit badges did they show in the video? (Answer: 15 – there are two groups which have options within them – emergency preparedness or lifesaving; and cycling or hiking or swimming.)

[ click to change slides ]



# The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

[ pause to let audience read, then click to change slides ]



## Emphasis is on LEADERSHIP

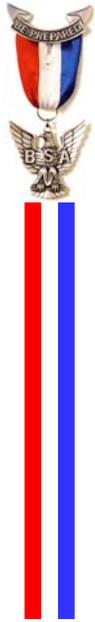
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- YOU must plan work, organize people needed, direct total project
- Project MUST be of REAL VALUE, benefiting environment, community, religious group, school, or other worthy group

[ click on the first bullet ] The project for Eagle Scout Rank is different than what you have done before. THIS project requires YOU to do all the planning, the organization, the coordination among all the participants. For YOU, this project is to demonstrate your leadership abilities. YOU are not expected to be the “doer”, although a good leader does participate in doing.

[ click on the second bullet ] Your Eagle project must benefit a group, your school or church, or a community. Note that the concept of “community” is not defined or limited in scope.

[ click to change slides ]



## An Eagle Project CANNOT:

- Be a job normally done as routine labor;
- Be performed for a business or individual;
- Be of a commercial nature;
- Be a fund-raiser;
- Be shared by another Eagle Candidate;
- Be of benefit to any BSA element.

[ click ] There are restrictions as to what constitutes a valid Eagle project. It CANNOT be any of the following:

[ click ] Routine labor is like cutting the lawn.

[ click ] Remember that it must be done for a group or organization, not for an individual. It cannot be for a business. You have to be careful regarding this point. Some seemingly appropriate activities may actually benefit a profit-making business. For instance, not all retirement homes and hospices are charitable organizations. Some are local facilities of large corporations which trade on the stock exchange. If there is any question about an organization's status, ask them for a copy of their tax-free status document (a "501(3)(c)" statement from the IRS). Include that document with your project workbook.

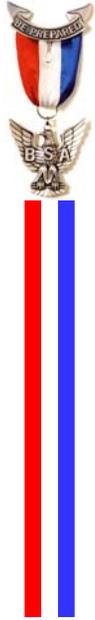
[ click ] Somewhat related to the previous point, your project cannot have anything to do with commercial activities.

[ click ] A project cannot by itself be a fund raiser, such as raising money for disaster relief. Although, with approval of your adult leaders, you may have a fund raiser to pay for materials used in your service project.

[ click ] Your project may not be shared with other Scouts as an Eagle project. Make sure that what you do for the local parks is distinctly yours and not in some way just an extension of a project done by another Scout.

[ click ] Finally, your project may not be for you unit, the District, the Council, or the Order of Arrow as an organization. This project must be of benefit outside of Scouting.

Any questions about any of these points? [ pause – click to change slides ]



## Cautions in Selecting Projects:

- Effort should be appropriate for youth
  - Large construction projects are not called for
- Safety is paramount
  - Bridges to be used by motorized vehicles require structural engineer review
- Collection drives must be tied to specific metric goals
  - Repeated collection drives may be required to meet metric goals

[ each bullet is revealed automatically ]

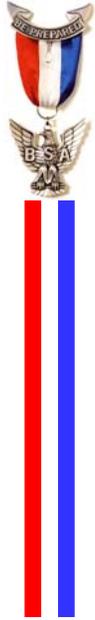
There are certain things you need to be cautious about when you select a project.

First, your project should be appropriate as a youth project. Remember that you will be dependent on the boy members of your unit to provide service hours (or, labor). You need to have jobs that 11-year old guys can do – they need service hours, too. Some benefiting organizations in western Loudoun have asked our Eagle candidates to build rather large sheds and barn-like structures. These are not appropriate.

You **MUST** have safety in mind. The **LAST** thing we want is for someone to be injured after we leave the site because we didn't build a strong enough structure. Many of the park rangers ask our Eagle candidates to build bridges which they will use with motorized vehicles, from "Gators" to pickups. The District Committee will not approve these projects unless you have detailed plans which have been reviewed by and signed by a structural engineer.

Some guys want to do a collection drive, such as a blood drive or clothing drive. You must remember that you have to demonstrate leadership for your project. Calling the Red Cross and setting up a date for them to arrive and conduct a blood drive is not very challenging to show your leadership abilities. Whatever the collection drive is, you must work with the benefiting organization and come up with some goal of how much your project is responsible. If it is a clothing drive, then you need to establish the number of pounds of clothes you will collect. If you don't meet that goal on your initial collection day, then you must conduct additional collections until you do meet or exceed the goal. Be prepared to have the metric you put in your project plan increased by the District Advancement Committee! The project must be substantial!

[ click to change slides ]



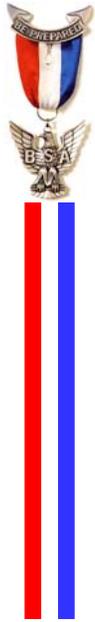
## What Kind of Project?

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- Use your imagination within bounds stated
- Some projects have been
  - park enhancements
  - grave stone cataloging
  - restored bleachers for school athletic field
  - youth protection and identification program

Within the bounds stated, only your imagination limits your choice of project. There are lots of idea helps available to you. The examples shown here are taken from the Guidelines pamphlet I told you about earlier. The pamphlet also has internet addresses where you can get additional ideas. Talk to community leaders, your church leaders, your school administrators to get ideas.

[ click to change slides ]



## Select a Project That:

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- Is interesting to you;
- Is challenging to you;
- Provides an opportunity for leadership
  - Not just planning and organizing, but also requiring you to direct others

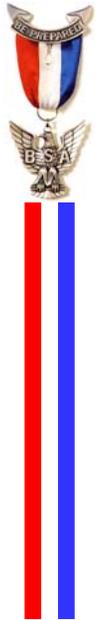
[ each blue bullet group is revealed when clicked ]

[ click ] So, in choosing your project, start with what interests you. Not everyone has to build a bridge for one of our fine parks!

[ click ] The project should be of sufficient scope that it will be a challenge to you. The District Advancement Committee recognizes that what is a challenge for a younger Scout may be rather simple for a 17-year old, so we will be expecting more of the older boys, even though we would approve the project for the younger boys.

[ click ] Whatever you choose, it must demonstrate your leadership abilities – and you have to be able to document your leadership activities in the project workbook.

[ click to change slides ]



## Additional Comments on Projects

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- No specific requirements on how big a project is required
  - No minimum number of service hours
  - But, project must be SIGNIFICANT
- No “out of pocket” expenses by you or your family
  - You may conduct a fundraiser to pay for materials

[ each blue and red button is revealed when clicked ]

Just a couple more points about projects.

[ click ] There is no specification on how big a project must be.

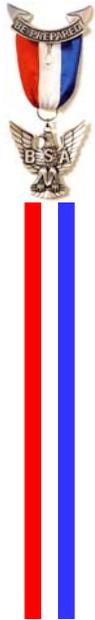
[ click ] Contrary to an urban myth, there is no minimum number of service hours required.

[ click ] The project must be significant in its contribution to the community, the environment, or to the benefiting organization. Your Eagle Board of Review has the last say on what is significant!

[ click ] An Eagle Project is not something which can be “bought”. Just because you or your family can afford the expenses of the materials does not mean you should be responsible for paying for the project. Part of demonstrating leadership is showing how you can raise funds to cover your expenses.

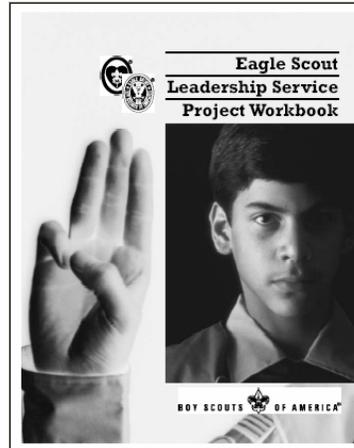
[ click ] As I said before, you can conduct a fund raising activity to cover your expenses.

[ click to change slides ]



## Document Your Project Plan

- You **MUST** use the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook*
  - Also available on-line
- Get approval signatures **BEFORE** starting project
  - District Advancement Committee person is last approval signature required

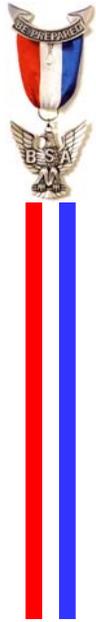


You must use the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook available from your unit leadership or council headquarters. You also can get it from the internet from a link at the District website. The internet file is not as neat and clean as the workbook – you will need to clean it up a little in your presentation before you start getting signatures.

There are four approval signatures you need before you actually start work on your project. Any one of the four may require you to modify your plan before they agree to sign the workbook.

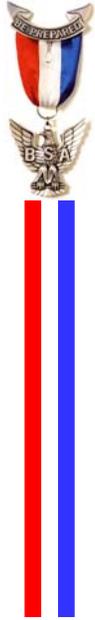
The District Committee Advancement member who lives nearest your unit meeting place is the last signature you get – after all others have signed. You can get the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those members from the guidelines pamphlet and from the District website. Or, call me for help.

[ click to change slides ]



## Getting Your Paperwork Together

[ pause to let audience read, then click to change slides ]



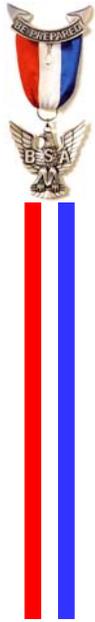
## Keep Track of Your Progress

- Check-off merit badges earned in your Handbook
- Remember, ALL requirements must be completed BEFORE your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday



YOU are responsible for tracking your progress toward Eagle Scout Rank. Use your Scout Handbook to record your progress for Star, Life, and Eagle. Check off the merit badges in the places provided. Keep your eye on the calendar: you have to have all the requirements BEFORE your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

[ click to change slide ]



## Keep Records Safe



- Keep your copy of merit badge Blue Cards
- Also keep rank and merit badge certificates

Your official advancement cards, merit badge certificates, and your Blue Cards are important documents. You may need them to document your Eagle Scout Application, especially if you move to another city. So, keep every card in a safe, secure location!

[ click to change slide ]





## Assemble Documents in Neat Order



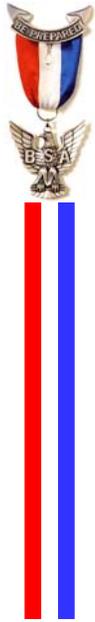
- Use a 3-ring binder to hold pages in sheet protectors
- Suggested order:
  - Eagle application
  - TroopMaster report or blue cards
  - Project workbook
    - Include photos
  - Statement of ambitions and life goals

[ two photos reveal automatically on the left ]

The District Advancement Committee recommends you assemble all your paperwork in a 3-ring binder, holding the pages inside clear plastic sheet protectors. This will keep all your papers together as they are processed by many hands.

Your project workbook will be enhanced by including photos of the project from “before”, through “doing”, to “after.” The completed project, especially if it is a unique, rarely done type of project, should have a good, color print suitable for publication which the Eagle Board of Review can recommend to the Council for publicity.

[ click to change slides ]



## Let's Look at the Eagle Challenge in Closing ...

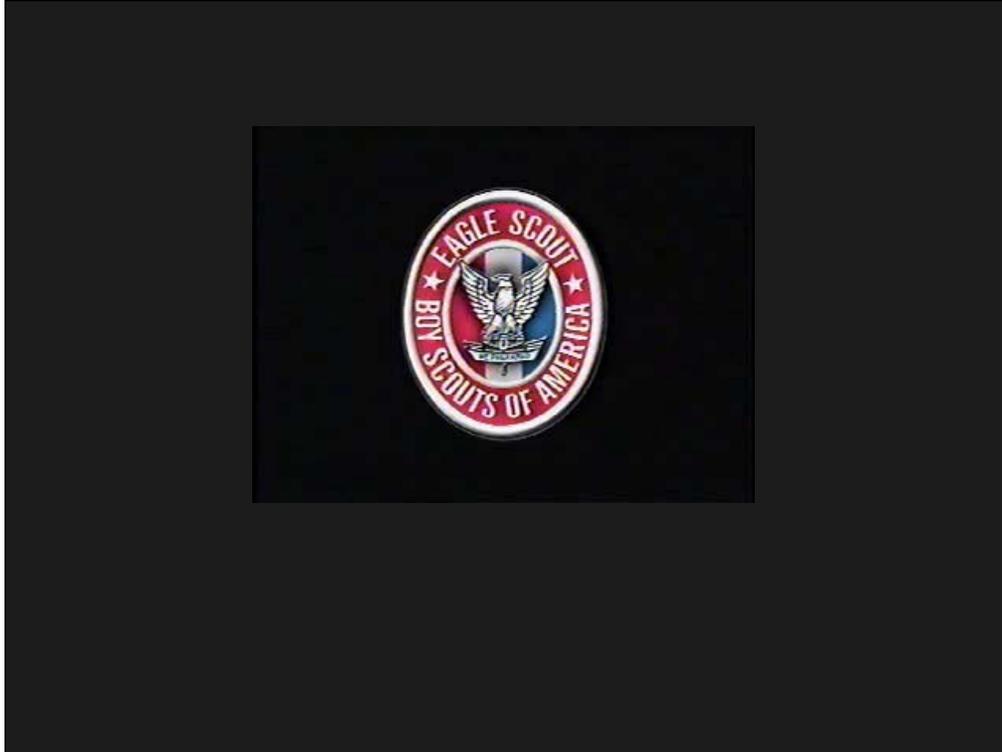
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[ Eagle reveals automatically ]

For the closing, we have a video of the Eagle Challenge – what it means to become an Eagle Scout, the responsibilities and obligations you must assume with the acceptance of this high honor.

[ click slide to begin video ]



[ video will start automatically ] [ BSA AV-08V023, "Eagle Scout Challenge", embedded in PowerPoint presentation; length 4:35 minutes ]

[ after video, end presentation ]