PARENT'S GUIDE · BOARD OF REVIEW

Preparing for the Eagle Scout Board of Review

TYPICAL LENGTH	WHO'S ON THE BOARD	TONE
30–60 minutes	3–6 members, often with a district or council representative	Formal, but a celebration

The Eagle board is the biggest one, and it runs differently from the others. Your council approves the Eagle application first and checks references. The board often includes someone from the district or council, not just troop committee members. The conversation covers your scout's whole time in Scouting, the Eagle project, and the statement of ambitions and life purpose they wrote. Boards rarely turn an Eagle candidate down. Most members see it as a chance to recognize what the scout has accomplished.

What the Board Will Likely Talk About

The Eagle project

Why they chose it, how they planned and led it, what went wrong, and what they'd do differently.

Ambitions and life purpose

The written statement in their application. Expect follow-up questions about their plans and values.

Leadership over the years

Positions held, how they've grown, and how they've helped younger scouts.

The Oath and Law going forward

What being an Eagle Scout will mean in college, at work, and in their community.

Questions to Ask at Home

Ask these casually, not as a mock interview. You're helping your scout remember their own stories, not rehearsing answers.

1. **“Walk me through your Eagle project from idea to finish. What was the hardest part?”**

   A strong answer: A clear story, owning the setbacks, and giving credit to the volunteers.

2. **“How did you lead the people working on your project, especially adults?”**

   A strong answer: Concrete examples of directing work, solving problems, and keeping people on track.

3. **“What do you hope to be doing in ten years?”**

   A strong answer: Consistent with their written statement, but in their own words, not memorized.

4. **“Which point of the Scout Law has meant the most to you over the years?”**

   A strong answer: A personal answer with a real example. Often a story from years ago.

5. **“What would you tell a brand-new scout about the path to Eagle?”**

   A strong answer: Honest advice that reflects their own experience.

6. **“How will you give back to Scouting or your community after Eagle?”**

   A strong answer: A realistic idea: mentoring, serving as a junior assistant Scoutmaster, volunteering elsewhere.

Before the Board

- [ ] Every requirement, including the project and six months active as a Life scout, finished before the 18th birthday. The board itself may happen afterward.
- [ ] Eagle application submitted and approved by the council, with references provided.
- [ ] Statement of ambitions and life purpose written and attached to the application.
- [ ] Completed Eagle project workbook with all approval signatures.
- [ ] Board date set with the troop and the district or council, following your council's process.
- [ ] Uniform as complete and sharp as possible.

Tips for Parents

Have your scout reread their own project workbook and life purpose statement a few days before. The board will have them both.

Ask your scout to tell you the project story out loud once. It helps them organize it, and you'll enjoy hearing it.

Plan the Court of Honor after the board, not before. Rank isn't official until national confirms it.

Let your scout lead every step with the council and the troop. The board will notice whether they did.

> **Watch out:** Eagle's firm deadline is the 18th birthday. Every requirement must be finished by then, and some councils need applications well before the board. Talk to the troop's Eagle advisor early about your council's timeline.

Good to Know About Every Board of Review

It isn't a retest. The requirements were already signed off. Board members can ask how your scout learned a skill or what they got out of it, but they shouldn't make them retie knots or recite requirements. Your scout doesn't need to cram.

Parents usually wait outside. The board is three to six adult committee members talking with your scout. Parents can't serve on their own child's board, and most troops ask parents to wait outside. Check your troop's practice, and don't take it personally — the point is for your scout to speak for themselves.

There are no "right" answers. The board wants to hear how Scouting is going and what your scout has learned, in their own words. An honest "the hike was really hard and I almost quit" goes over much better than a polished speech.

Uniform matters, but not that much. Scouts should wear the uniform as neatly as they can. Missing pieces or an outgrown shirt shouldn't hold up a rank. If you're unsure what your troop expects, ask.

If it's not approved, there's a next step. Boards rarely turn a scout down. If they do, they have to explain what's missing and how to fix it, and the scout can come back. There's also a formal appeal process. A board that "continues" a review just needs something finished first; it isn't a failure.

Troops and councils handle scheduling and logistics differently. When in doubt, ask your troop's advancement chair.