

TROOP #61

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Troop 61 Life to Eagle Policy Statement

The purpose of this statement is to clearly state the Troop's expectations of scouts who achieve the rank of Life Scout with the intention of advancing to the rank of Eagle Scout. These expectations are not additional requirements; these expectations are the Troop's interpretation of how the Scoutmaster and Board of Review will evaluate achievement of the stated requirements for advancing from Life to Eagle.

1. Scout Spirit. Scout spirit is demonstrated by both the quantity and quality of participation in ALL troop activities, including:

- summer camp,
- campouts,
- regular meetings,
- PLC meetings if you are in a PLC office,
- service projects,
- spaghetti dinner,
- all other scheduled troop activities.

Just being present is not sufficient. Cheerful and active participation is also required. Examples of specific required activities under the heading of scout spirit that cannot be missed:

- It is expected that all Eagle candidates will sell all of their annual allotment of spaghetti dinner tickets and be present at meatball night, setup night, and the night of the event. Since the troop only does one fundraising activity each year, there is no reason for an Eagle candidate to not fully participate in the one activity that finances the troop for the year.
- It is expected that all Eagle candidates will participate fully in summer camp.

Circumstances may require that other activities be missed. However, you must have a discussion with the Scoutmaster BEFORE the event to obtain agreement that the absence is acceptable. It may be that case that you may have to make a difficult choice between events. This is an unfortunate fact of life. It may be the case that you will have to defer completion of your Eagle if you choose to miss troop activities.

Scout Spirit is judged solely by the Scoutmaster at the Scoutmaster Conference required before an Eagle Board of Review.

2. Leadership. The stated requirement is six months of service, while a Life Scout, in an eligible leadership position as listed in the Scout Handbook. The Troop takes the service requirement literally. If you are elected or appointed to an office, that alone does not satisfy the requirement. Similar to Scout Spirit, leadership is demonstrated through the quantity and quality of participation in the activities of the office and of the Troop.

The participation requirement for PLC offices is set by the PLC in with the consent of the Scoutmaster. Currently, missing one PLC meeting or one campout is sufficient for a PLC office holder to be removed from office.

Participation requirements for appointed offices are set by the Scoutmaster. Currently, missing more than one meeting per month and more than one campout during the term office is sufficient for an appointed office holder to be removed from office.

The quality of leadership is judged by the Scoutmaster and the Board of Review.

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3. Service Project. The project requirements for Eagle are clearly outlined in the Eagle Project Workbook. You should sit down with the Scoutmaster at some point after your Life Board of Review to go over the workbook and to review scheduling. You should recognize that it may not be possible for the Troop to schedule your Eagle project as a Troop service project if the calendar is too full. A member of the Troop Committee is also required to sign off on your project proposal. Failure to meet leadership and service requirements described above may be cause for either the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Member to withhold their approval of a service project proposal.

The Eagle Project Workbook requires signatures to attest to the planning and completion of the project. In addition, a District Advisor Certification form is required to be completed.


4. Merit Badges. The merit badge requirements for Eagle are clearly stated. Eagle candidates are expected to consult with the Scoutmaster to obtain suggested counselor names for each merit badge and a signed blue card. You are not to be obtaining a copy of the counselor list and making calls on your own prior to having a conversation with the Scoutmaster. Completed merit badges are evidenced by signed blue merit badge cards submitted to the Scoutmaster.

Note on Athletic Conflicts: The Troop recognizes the demands of school coaches for attendance at practices and competitions in order to remain on the team. Up to the rank of Life, the Troop attempts to be flexible in accommodating the demands of athletics. During the period between Life and Eagle, the Troop expects that the Troop will receive a greater proportion of your time and effort in recognition of the importance of the Eagle Scout rank. Participation in both Athletics and Scouts is a choice. As noted above, difficult choices are a part of life. There are rewards for commitment to an endeavor, be it scouts or athletics. If you can't make a sufficient commitment to both, then you must choose and live with the consequences of your choice. The ultimate award of scouting is the rank of Eagle Scout. It cannot be given without your having fully met the requirements of the rank. Anything less diminishes the value of the award for all. Keep in mind that athletic awards are not earned without meeting requirements, and so it is also with the rank of Eagle Scout.

Unlike an athletic competition with a distinct end, Eagle Scout is not an end; it is the beginning of a lifetime obligation to live the Scout Oath and Law and to provide leadership and service to others. Thus, the achievement of Eagle is not to be taken lightly and as a secondary commitment. The process of achieving Eagle should be viewed as a demonstration of the skills and activities that you will continue for the rest of your life.

Any questions on this policy should be directed to the Scoutmaster.

Signed:


H. Stewart Fitz Gibbon III, Troop Committee Chairman


Paul F. Moodispaw, Scoutmaster

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