

# Eagle Boards

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The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

## Purpose

This document describes the procedures that the Utah National Parks Council and its districts and units will follow to administer the final review of a Boy, prior to obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

## Procedure

The following describes the method that has been used within the Utah National Parks Council for Eagle Boards of Review for many years.

The Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures book, revision #33088, on page 30 under the heading Eagle Scout Boards of Review, first paragraph it states the following:

*The Boy Scouts of America has placed the Eagle Scout board of review in the hands of either the troop, team, crew or ship committee or the district or council committee responsible for advancement. The council will decide and promulgate which method or methods may be used.*

Within our Council Eagle Boards of Review are held on the district level. Eagle Boards of Review are not to be held on the unit level in any circumstance. In those districts where travel distance to a district level Eagle Board would be a hardship, Eagle boards may be held on the sub-district level. However, this is the exception to the rule.

The following are the criteria for an Eagle Board to be considered a district board of review:

1. The board is held under the direction of the District Advancement Chairman.
2. The board is chaired by a member of the District Advancement Committee.
3. Members of the board are members of the community and members of the district advancement committee.
4. The District Advancement Chairman must approve all members of the board, prior to holding the board.
5. Unit level volunteers, other than those listed below, may be invited by the board chairman to participate in the board, however they must be approved by the District Advancement Chairman. It is recommended that only a small number of Unit volunteers be involved on the board.

6. Relatives, unit leaders, or assistant unit leaders may not serve on the district board for an Eagle candidate from their unit. "The unit leader may remain in the room, but does not participate in the board of review. The unit leader may be called on to clarify a point in question. In no case should a relative or guardian of the candidate attend the review, even as a unit leader" (*Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, p. 32, number 9).
7. It is the responsibility of the District Advancement Chairman to insure that all members of the Eagle board understand the purpose and importance of the Eagle board of review and to insure the policies and procedures of the Boy Scouts of America are adhered to.
8. If any problem should be discovered while conducting the board, it is the responsibility of the chairman to adjourn the board of review and seek the counsel of the District or Council Advancement Chairman. Further guidance for the process for adjourning a board of review can be found on page 30 of the *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures* book.

The authority for certifying and administrating all the advancement for the district has been delegated from the Council Advancement Chairman to the District Advancement Chairman. It is under the District Advancement Chairman's direction that all the advancement is carried out on the district level. No one else within the district has the authority to administer the advancement program within the district unless it is under the direction of the district advancement committee.

Commissioners should work with the district advancement committee to identify those units within the district that are struggling and may need special help and guidance from the district advancement committee. Commissioners should also work with the district advancement committee to help them discover the goals units have for advancement so the committee can in turn set district advancement goals. Administrating the district advancement program, however, is not a part of commissioner service. This includes running Eagle boards of reviews.

### **Best Practices**

Prior to an Eagle Board of Review, the records of the Eagle Candidate should be reviewed. The Red Book states that this should be done at least 30 minutes prior to holding the Board. A best practice is that a member of the Board, preferably the Board Chairman or the District Advancement Chairman, will review the Eagle paperwork, including Letters of Recommendation a couple days prior to the board. In this way, any issues can be resolved prior to the Board.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q) May we continue as we have planned to do and invite a member of the stake YM presidency to chair the board even though he is not a member of the District Advancement Committee, since a member of the District Advancement Committee will also be sitting on the board?

A) Yes. The stake young men presidency member would be sitting in on the Eagle Board as a member of the community, but the district advancement committee member would be the chair of the board. Also keep in mind that it is the responsibility of the District Advancement Chairman to train the stake YM presidency member in the proper procedure and decorum which should be maintained by a member of an Eagle Board.

## **References**

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook

Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures (Red Book)