

Why should you continue to advance and earn your Eagle Scout Award?

Congratulations on being part of an organization that has produced some of our country's pioneers in politics, science, exploration, business, military, sports and many other parts of our nation.

Scouts are represented in all levels of government, military, and entertainment.

11 of the 12 U.S. astronauts that have walked on the moon were Boy Scouts.

You are part of an organization that has been an incredibly important part of America's history. Scouts were the biggest sellers of War Bonds (over \$300 Million) to help fund the First World War. In today's economy, that would equal over \$7 Billion. In the Second World War, the Scouts were one of the biggest collectors of metals for recycling to help the war effort. There are many times in history where the Scouts have offered help and assistance in times of need.

There are a couple of sayings...

I was a Boy Scout. I am an Eagle. (Once the Eagle rank is earned, it is not referred to in past tense.)

The second and more famous phrase is: "Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle".

The Eagle Scout Award is probably the most well-known award someone under the age of 18 can earn.

Famous Eagles include former president Gerald Ford and movie director Steven Spielberg.

Many leaders in industry, universities, Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Leaders of the CIA and FBI, Heads of the Department of Defense and other parts of the presidential administration have been Eagle Scouts.

Of those 11 of 12 Scouts to walk on the moon, two of them were Eagle Scouts, including the first ever to set foot on the moon, Neil Armstrong. Forty astronauts in total have been Eagles.

Eagles have been included as famous characters in television and movies: Indiana Jones in the Raiders of the Lost Arc series, Will Smith's character in Men in Black, ... even Snoopy was a Beagle Scout. These were characters that were respected and known for their resourcefulness.

Many events like the National Scout Jamboree have special events just for Eagles. At Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, there are special parts of the ceremony for attending Eagles.

So you're a part of a great organization with a great history. Why should you push on and earn the Eagle Scout Award?

Eagle Scouts are often times given an extra advantage or benefit of the doubt because of their reputation and accomplishments. Every branch of the U.S. military allows Eagle Scouts to enter at a higher rank and pay grade than people who aren't Eagle Scouts. One of the Marine Corp recruiting sites stated, "Scouting requires training, loyalty, and discipline, and the Marines recognize that as an Eagle Scout you have had some of the basics that they you expand upon in boot camp."

College admission staffs recognize the award and consider it in their decisions. Being an Eagle Scout won't make up for poor grades, but it will give you an advantage. The staff may not be familiar with many of the awards you have won or even some of the organizations in which you've participated, but they all recognize the Eagle Scout rank.

There are many scholarship opportunities, including some from the National Eagle Scout Association. Colleges will often award a higher amount on a merit scholarship because of the Eagle rank.

When you are getting ready to graduate from college and start applying for jobs, you will put together a resume of your history and accomplishments. You won't be putting very much from your high school days on that paper. Maybe some job experience. One thing you will be putting on that resume will be your Eagle Scout award.

Many employers know that as an Eagle you have lived the Scout Law. You have leadership experience over a period of time. You accomplished a lot by earning a wide range of merit badges and learning other skills. You have had seven Scoutmaster conferences and six boards of review.

As part of completing your Eagle Scout project, you will have made a proposal, planned the project, worked with people in an outside organization, raised funds, organized materials, and led both Scouts and adults. That is an incredible accomplishment that won't go unnoticed.

Employers have said that when they get a resume with an Eagle award listed, they will automatically give that person a second look or interview because they think it is that significant.

Once you have a job, you will still list the award when applying for positions and promotions inside your company. This award does not go away. It's also one of the only rank awards you wear as an adult on your Scout shirt. The other is Arrow of Light from Cub Scouting.

And...if you maintain your National Eagle Scout Association membership, you will have that additional professional organization to list on your resume, hopefully along with your activities as an adult leader in Scouting.

The Eagle Scout award is not a guarantee of anything. Boy Scouts don't earn their Eagle Scout rank for accolades and benefits. They do it because they are living the Scout Law every day. When a Boy Scout becomes an Eagle Scout, he enters into a brotherhood of Eagle Scouts united by their commitment to the ideals of Scouting. And as you go through your life, if you live by the Scout Law, you will almost guarantee yourself continued success.

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.

Robert Batchelder, Eagle Scout and parent of two Eagle Scout sons who are alumni of Troop 202